

HOME TOWN IN THE CORN BELT
A Source History of Bloomington, Illinois
1900 - 1950
In Five Volumes

Compiled by
Clara Louise Kessler

Volume IV

Bloomington, Illinois

1950



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VOLUME IV

"FOR THE PEOPLE"

HOME TOWN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

SOME MEMORIES OF THE STREET CAR COMPANY

by

ABE WILLIAMS

Washington street to the "Western Depot" (the C. & A.), another to the "Eastern Depot" (the I.C.). The depots were referred to by these names by the citizens. A line was built from Main street to the C. & A. on Chestnut street. The south Main line was extended from the I.B. & W. and L.E. & W. tracks to Houghton's Lake. From the present Highland Park to Houghton's Lake it ran on a private right of way on the west side of the road. The Normal line also ran on a private right of way on the west side from University Avenue to the Normal University, cutting through the campus at an angle. One winter before the other lines were built there was an unusual deep snow and the cars on the Normal line were put on runners. I remember them on Main street. Whether they ran on to Normal I do not remember. If they did they probably took to the road instead of the private right of way.

Other lines were built from time to time, some not until the road was electrified. The first electric railway in the U.S. was built in 1888. The other lines were the Clinton Belt, the Center street line, connecting with the Chestnut street line to Normal, the Clay and Vale line, the Market street and Miller Park lines and the Normal BY.

While the cars A. WILLIAMS being pulled by mules the Normal cars would change teams at the car barn. Mule teams equal Asa Moore built and operated the first street car lines in Bloomington. He had been an official on the Chicago Alton & St. Louis R.R. (later the Chicago & Alton, now the G.M. & O.)

The first line was to Normal. It was operated in part by a dummy steam engine which ran from the car barn on Park street to Normal. The cars from the car barn to the Court House Square and to the I.B. & W. and the L.E. & W. railroads were pulled by mules. The rails were light weight, the cars were small and the mules were not very large. The cars had straw on the floor to protect the passengers from frozen feet in the winter and as a base for the mud tracked in during the rainy season, and were lighted by kerosene lamps. They had a fare box at each end. There were no fare registers. The driver was the sole operator. He had a box for change, tickets and transfers attached to the dashboard. It was many years later when conductors were employed. The fare was five cents in Bloomington. I am not sure whether it was ten cents to Normal in the early days. Tickets were six for a quarter. The cars had no vestibules. The driver and such passengers as occupied the platforms were exposed to the weather. The steam dummy was discarded in the early years of the line. I have no memory of it but I knew a boy who had his leg cut off by it.

As the town grew other lines were built, one on west and rails where they belonged.

Washington street to the "Western Depot" (the C. & A.), and another to the "Eastern Depot" (the I.C.). The depots were referred to by those names by the citizens. A line was built from Main street to the C. & A. on Chestnut street. the south Main line was extended from the I.B. & W. and L. E. & W. tracks to Houghton's Lake. From the present Highland Park to Houghton's lake it ran on a private right of way on the west side of the road. The Normal line also ran on a private right of way on the west side from University Avenue to the Normal University, cutting through the campus at an angle. One winter before the other lines were built there was an unusual deep snow and the cars on the Normal line were put on runners. I remember them on Main street. Whether they ran on to Normal I do not remember. If they did they probably took to the road instead of the private right of way.

Other lines were built from time to time, some not until the road was electrified. The first electric railway in the U.S. was built in 1885. The other lines were the Clinton Belt, the Center street line, connecting with the Chestnut street line to make a belt line, the Fell Avenue line to Normal, the Clay and Vale line, the Market street and Miller Park lines and the Normal loop.

While the cars were still being pulled by mules the Normal cars would change teams at the car barn. Mule teams equipped with harness were driven from the car barn to the Court House Square to relieve the other teams which were driven back to the barn and were stabled in the south wing. The windows opening into their stable can still be seen in outline on the building now occupied by the Illinois Power Co. on Park street. The system was entirely single track with passing switches at convenient points long after the lines were electrified. In later years there were double tracks on Main from Chestnut to Front and a short distance on Front and on Washington and a stretch of two or three blocks on the Fell Avenue line.

The system was sold to eastern people. The principal owner was Senator Patterson of Pennsylvania. His son, W.H. Patterson, came from Washington D.C. to be manager.

Some time in the late 80's the change from mules to trolley cars was made. I had seen the electric arc street lights come to replace the gas lamp posts but had never seen an electric street car and I wondered about them. My sister, Mattie, had been to Peoria where they were in operation and she told me what a pretty sight it was at night to see the sparks flying from the wire and rails. She said in Peoria they called the cars the "tristies". Little did I dream that later on I would spend about ten years with those "tristies" and several times be nearly knocked off my feet by the 500 volts going through me instead of the wires and rails where they belonged.

I went to work in the office at the car barn. I opened up at 6:15 A.M. and gave the men their change, tickets and transfers, then checked the receipts for the previous day and deposited the money in the bank. Unlike the present day practice at the banks when a customer has to wait in line a long time while the teller counts every penny in the big sacks that the merchants send for deposit, I merely handed the deposit slip and the bank book to the teller and he entered the amount in the book and put aside the big canvas sack to count later. He and I were both too busy to take the time. If anything was wrong he would tell me the next day. At eleven A.M. and five P.M. I had to be at the Square to take the receipts from the men going off duty and supply those going on duty with tickets and transfers. The men going off duty would transfer their five dollars change to their relief men. At night when the cars arrived at the barn about midnight we would take the contents of the fare boxes and put them in the safe. These were mostly tickets and transfers except on a few cars which were operated by one man. Nearly all of the cars had a motorman and a conductor. A regular crew consisted of three men, a straight day man, a morning and night man and an afternoon and night man, there always being two men on duty and one off. They relieved each other for an hour for meals.

Bill Irvin was superintendent. He had worked for Asa Moore in the mule car days. From treating sick and injured mules and running a mule drawn car line to running an electric railway was a job that he took in his stride. He was liked by everyone who knew him and he knew everybody and was just about the finest, kindest and hardest working gentleman that I ever knew. He always saw to the night work when the cars came in about midnight, though on busy days I often worked until midnight myself.

One team of mules was kept at the barn to pull the repair wagon. Jim Marker drove the repair wagon. Later on an electric repair car was used. The cars were of various makes and sizes. The larger ones were used on the Normal line. The Normal line was always the first to be cleared after a snow storm. We really had some snow in those days. There were times when not a car could run owing to the deep snow. There was a sweeper for light snow and a snow plow for heavy falls. Bill Irvin often worked all night with the snow clearing crews and many times even then only one or two lines would be open by morning.

In summer most of the cars were open ones, with cross seats and running boards along the sides where the conductor would make his way and reach in to collect fares. Sometimes when business was heavy open cars without motors would be used as trailers. In use for a while were two convertible cars. The entrances were in the middle and the entire sides could be lowered, making a "summer" car of it. These

cars were not much of a success, too complicated, and did not last long. Two very long large cars were bought for use on the Normal line. They were almost as large as an inter-urban car (there were no interurban cars in Bloomington in the days I am writing about). Many of the streets where the cars ran were not paved. The motorman had a landmark of some kind, a tree or some object, opposite which he stopped the front end of the car so the passengers could get on and off from the wooden crossings and not have to step in the mud. When these long cars were put into operation the motormen had to pick new landmarks. Ed McCarthy, running one of the large cars, had made a stop on Park street, then unpaved, on a muddy day. The conductor gave him three bells, the signal to back, as he had missed the crossing. Ed looked over in a yard opposite him and said "darn that fellow, he has moved his flower stand". One of the oldest cars, number 33, was a puzzle to a new operator. It had no controller stand with notches on it, just a straight pipe with a one piece controller handle, no reverse lever. The operator was never sure which way the car would start when the power was applied. Dan Tracy, the night man at the barn was working around one of the pits when someone started to take old 33 out. Instead of starting out it shot back and nearly ran over Dan. He said "I would of been kilt if I hadn't jumped between myself and 33".

Trolley parties were popular summer entertainments for clubs and lodges. One or more cars were gaily decorated with colored lights and would run over most of the lines on hot summer nights. The trips usually ended at some designated place where ice cream and cake would be served.

Mr. Patterson was a good man to work for. He was at one time one of the park commissioners. He and his wife were prominent in society. I doubt if Mrs. Patterson ever rode on a street car in Bloomington. They had their carriage and trap and a coachman. Right here an anecdote comes to my mind. It has no connection with street cars but here it is as I heard it. Captain Robley Evans, a noted figure in the old navy prior to and during the Spanish war, was a brother of Mrs. Patterson. He was known far and wide as "Fighting Bob Evans". One Sunday in New York he dropped into a church. It was one of those high toned churches where some of the members paid a yearly rental for the sole use of pews. He some way or another was the only occupant of one of these pews. The member who rented that pew appeared later and seeing a stranger in his pew, took one of his cards and wrote something on it and handed it to an usher. The usher handed the card to "Fighting Bob". The message on the card read -- "I pay five thousand dollars for this pew". "Fighting Bob" took his pencil and wrote "You pay too damn much" and handed the card to the usher.

The real heyday of the street car company came when it was purchased from the Patterson management by a group of

local men and Mr. John Eddy was manager. Mr. Eddy was a good mixer. He had been a member of the legislature and postmaster and was always interested in politics. While he was manager the entire system was relaid with heavy rails and an enlarged layout of tracks at the barn.

Under both managements the used tickets and transfers were burned in the boiler room at the power house near the barn. I tossed them into a boiler fire box. After the fire of 1900 and the Unity building on the east side of the Square had been built, Mr. De Mange had his office in that building and a change was made in handling the used tickets and transfers, it being done at his office. Then I took them to the boiler room of the BULLETIN and burned them. The BULLETIN building was where the present Y.M.C.A. building is now.

Mr. Eddy was besieged with applications for jobs and complied with most of the requests, especially if the applicants were Democrats. We had a long list of extra men. I do not think that Bill Irvin thought very highly of the qualifications of some of the extras as street car operators but they were all broken in for the job. The motormen and conductors received a dollar and a half a day and worked six days a week. At times some of them put in extra time and made more than the regular nine dollars a week but as a rule each had his day off. The only work for the extra men was relief on days off and on big days when extra cars were run. Sometimes a regular man would show up at 6 A.M. but would ask to be off on account of not feeling well or something. This happened oftener on bad stormy days in winter, just when experienced motormen were needed. I would assign extras on these occasions. I don't think that Bill Irvin thought much of my judgement but no serious accidents occurred on the system in the years that I worked there. I was glad to see the extra men get work now and then. They showed up faithfully and hopeful every day. One of them was named Wantzenreid - if that is the correct spelling -. The regular men never called him by his right name but called him "Once A Week", as that was about as often as he had work, so they said.

I worked long hours and my meal times were very irregular. I had yellow jaundice but did not know it and kept on working. My face and the whites of my eyes were a bright yellow. Sells Brothers circus was here and Mr. Eddy sent me to the show grounds to see Mr. Louis Sells, the head man, and get a bunch of passes. I located Mr. Sells and told him my errand. He demurred at the large number of passes asked for, then said "I will give them to you if you will promise me something". Then he said "promise me you will go to a doctor and get rid of that yellow". I do not think that I went to a doctor but I recovered and have always thought kindly of Louis Sells for his interest in an unknown young man whom he would probably never see again. I suppose he

he kept an eye on the army of circus people and spotted anything wrong.

Those street car days were happy ones for me. I liked the work. When I came back to make my home again in the old town, in 1945, I was surprised to find no street cars. The last of the tracks were being taken up on Main from Jefferson to Front streets. The substitution of buses in place of street cars was going on all over the U.S. but I had not thought of it happening in my own town.

I have wondered what became of the old cars. In other cities I have seen some of them in use as lunch cars and put to other uses. I saw one in Oklahoma out on a farm.

It was my intention to write a book about the
two most famous stores in the world, the
Chicago and Alton shops, and to tell you
about their history and the people who
were connected with them. I thought
that the people who were interested in
the history of the city would be interested
in the history of the shops.

THE CHICAGO AND ALTON SHOPS

BY

JOSEPH SCHNEEBERGER

Since my retirement March 26, 1949, I have jotted down from memory things that happened in the history of the Alton Railroad from incidents that came to my attention from stories told by the "old timers" who were working in the shops when I started serving my time as a boy and from my own experiences during the 46 years of my employment. My scrap book of old newspaper clippings helped a lot in compiling this information.

Joseph Schneeberger
721 West Jefferson Street
Bloomington, Illinois

Joseph Schneeberger

I started to work for the Alton Railroad August 12, 1903 and retired April 26, 1949. On October 12, 1912 I became a foreman. From that time on I held every formanship position on the Alton Railroad. For ten years I was Superintendent of the Bloomington Locomotive Shops.

1857

The first pullman car was built in the Bloomington car shops. This was the first pullman car in the United States of America and this very car was used on the funeral train of Abe Lincoln, President of the United States, which carried his body from Chicago, Illinois to Springfield, Illinois, over the Chicago and Alton Railroad.

1870

During the Chicago fire in 1870 steam engine #97, which had two truck wheels and two drivers was in Springfield, Illinois headed south. In Springfield there were no facilities to turn this engine around and head it north. It was therefore necessary to back the engine from Springfield to Bloomington at a terrific speed, where it was turned around on a turntable and headed north for Chicago. The Bloomington fire fighting equipment was loaded on flat cars and this engine then took the equipment to Chicago from Bloomington, 127 miles in 120 minutes.

At a later date the wife of the engineer who ran this train requested the throttle lever. The management of the railroad granted her request and then made a new one for this engine.

1880

During this year the Locomotive Shop, the Boiler Shop, the Foundry, and the Store Department were built of stone. This stone was brought from Joliet, Illinois, where it had been quarried. These buildings are still in good operating condition.

During the 1890's

The first electric cranes ever used in any railroad shops in the United States were installed in the various departments of the Chicago and Alton Railroad.

There were two 40 ton cranes in the Locomotive Shops that would pick up their engines and there was one 25 ton crane in the Boiler Shop to take care of the boilers.

One of the 40 ton cranes and the 25 ton crane were moved to the new Machine Shop in 1914.

All of the cranes are still in operation.

During the 1890's the Machine Shop had 13 pits on which to build and repair engines. The new engines were considered quite large at this time.

In these days everything required to build new steam engines was made in the Bloomington shops. New boilers, new cylinders, new frames, and truck and driving wheels were all made here in the shops. The wheels and cylinders were made of cast iron in the foundry. The frames were forged in the Blacksmith Shop.

1900

All coal and box cars were made of wood.

In 1900 there was a wreck on Engine #105. A two wheel truck and a two wheel driver, which comprises the engine somehow in this wreck got on top of a coal car, which was already loaded with coal to its capacity. This car in this condition was moved over into the Bloomington shops for removal of this engine from the car and for repair.

1907

During the year of 1907 there was a Boilermaker Strike and all of the boilermakers, boilermaker helpers and apprentices went out on strike. Strike breakers were employed and they were housed and fed in the Little Round House. The strike lasted three years and the union men lost the strike.

1910

The railroads all over the U.S.A. were expanding and the Baldwin Locomotive Works and the American Locomotive Works were building larger locomotives.

The Chicago and Alton Railroad purchased twenty of these large locomotives which were called "Mikado" (a Jap. name). They were composed of one truck wheel, four driving wheels and a trailer wheel. The boilers carried 180# of steam and were super-heated engines, also with Walshard valve gears. The Chicago and Alton Railroad numbered these engines beginning with number 800. Over a period of time they secured an additional 20 locomotives which now made their engines number from 800 to 839.

In 1912 they purchased twenty larger engines, which came under the 840 class. These boilers carried 200# of steam pressure. They also purchased at this time ten passenger engines consisting of two truck wheels, three driving wheels and one trailer wheel. These boilers carried 200# of steam pressure.

1911

Due to these large locomotives the machinery on hand was too small to repair them. Larger equipment and machinery was purchased in order that these locomotives could be repaired.

1912 - 1914

During the years 1912 - 1914 the new Machine Shops, Round House, Store Department and Blacksmith Shops were built out of brick. Originally the railroad managers wanted to build these shops in Springfield, Illinois because Springfield offered them the ground for nothing.

The people of Bloomington objected this idea of moving the shops to Springfield, Illinois, so they canvassed the city for funds to buy the ground on which to erect these buildings. \$165,000 was raised for this project. Houses were on this ground and had to be cleared away. This ground was given to the Chicago and Alton Railroad by the people, of Bloomington, Illinois.

1918

World War No. 1 was on and the Government had taken control of all of the railroads of the United States.

The Baldwin Locomotive Shops and the American Locomotive Shops now made locomotives according to a standard that was adopted and they were called the U. S. Standard Engines, consisting of one truck wheel, four driving wheels and a trailer. They had large boilers, 200# of pressure superheated. The main frames were 6" thick. The Chicago and Alton Railroad purchased twenty of these engines. Most of the large railroads throughout the Nation purchased them. All of these engines were made exactly alike.

On securing these new large engines it again became necessary to buy larger machinery and equipment with which to repair these locomotives.

The new process of welding became the greatest thing of these times. Acetylene and electric welding. Parts could now be repaired by welding which originally had to be made new.

Up to this time boilers had to be washed every few days due to a bad water condition which scaled up the boilers on the inside. The boilers became so clogged with this scale called mud that there was no space in the boiler around the flues for water. The locomotive was taken into the shops and the flues removed in order to get this accumulation of scale out of the boiler. When the flues were removed there would be over fifty wheel barrells full of this scale from the boilers.

All over the country, chemists were working to solve this condition of water treatment. A conclusion was finally reached to use Soda Ash which softened the water and dissolved this scale. After this method was put into use boilers could run thirty days between washings.

1922

Men on all of the railroads in the United States went on strike, that is, the non-operating unions. The railroads resorted to bringing in strike breakers in order to carry on the work.

The Governor of Illinois sent the Militia troops to protect the strike breakers at the Chicago and Alton Railroad shops. These soldiers were from the 33rd Division of Chicago, Illinois. The strike lasted three months. There was no trouble in Bloomington. The union lost the strike.

1931

In 1931 the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad acquired the Chicago and Alton Railroad. The first thing done was to change the name to the Alton Railroad. Many other changes were made. The Machine Shop, which had been on a schedule system to repair locomotives was then put on a spot system, which is a progressive system. Engines were carried to different spots and in place of men doing any and all kinds of work each person was now assigned to one particular job. Engines were brought to certain spots for certain work, passing from one group of men to another until all work was completed. The shop handled light and heavy work. By doing the work the Spot System way 75 to 80 engines were completed in a month.

From the years 1931 to 1938 the shops put out 743 Baltimore and Ohio engines with heavy repairs in addition to taking care of all of the Alton's locomotives.

The "Depression" was on and it was a good thing for Bloomington to have all of these B. & O. Engines for repair. The average cost of the B. & O. locomotives to repair was \$5,000 labor and \$8,000 material per locomotive. There were approximately 800 men employed steadily in the shops of Bloomington all during the depression years.

The B. & O. purchased two new stream-line trains, which were blue in color and were named the Abraham Lincoln and the Ann Rutledge.

In 1935 they purchased from the Electro Motive Company of LaGrange, Illinois, Diesel #60. This Diesel pulled the Abraham Lincoln from St. Louis to Chicago and return. In 1937 this diesel was brought into the Bloomington shops and a new crankshaft was put into it. The engine was removed from the car and completely dismantled, and a new crankshaft was applied. This crankshaft alone cost \$4,800.00.

ENGINE REPAIR LONG PROCESS

15 Crews of men perform various tasks required for complete job.

No less than 15 crews of men are kept busy in the big locomotive shop where Alton engines are reconditioned.

While one garage mechanic may handle all types of automobile repair, the locomotives require many men.

At 7:00 A.M. when the day shift goes to work, the mechanics start dismantling the engine that has arrived. The front end is taken out, the cylinders are plugged up for test, the exhaust pipe is plugged, throttle box taken out and a dummy put in the cylinders, superheater units and dry pipe tested through the cylinder with 150 pounds pressure.

Leaks Show Up.

All pipes are then taken off, the ash pan taken down and everything that showed a leak on the test is removed from the boiler. Front cylinder heads come off, and also the valve heads, valve motion, links and tumbling shafts, air reverse, air pump, superheater units taken out and even the flues in the boiler are cut loose and removed.

The outside jacket of the boilers is also removed and the cab, stoker, and even the crossties and the frame if they are in need of repair.

Inspection of the big boiler shell includes sandblasting by the night crew, the interior thoroughly cleaned to reveal any cracks.

Schedule Determined.

The schedule of the engine through the shop is then determined by the amount of boiler work necessary. Patches may be necessary, or new side or flue sheets. The boiler shop prepares the new parts after the drafting department has figured out the size of the patch, tensile and strains, and makes blue prints of same for future reference. The parts required are manufactured in the boiler shop and applied.

All those flues that were removed from the boiler are put through the "rattler" which removes scale. Each flue is then inspected and those suitable for use have new ends welded in place. New flues replace all those that do not pass inspection.

Other Parts Tested

In the meantime other parts of the locomotive are receiving attention in the various departments, springs and brake rigging in the blacksmith shop, wheel and driving boxes in that department, valve motion rods, pistons and crossheads to the rod and motion department, all air brake material to the air brake department.

While the flues are being put in place the machinists are preparing for a test of the boiler. The boiler checks, blow off cocks, fountain and other fixtures are replaced after being overhauled. The dry pipe, if left in, is plugged up and the dome cap is placed on top after the last

flue has been fitted in place.

Final Test Made

The overhauled and inspected boiler then receives a hydrostatic test of 250 pounds. After the test is completed, the boiler is painted with red lead, then wires are placed around the shell to hold the lagging on, all brackets put in place the the jacket is applied by the tinner.

The various departments besides boilermakers are the erection bay where the engines are stripped and assembled; the pipe shop, wood cab and lagging department, airbrake and stoker department, tool room, miscellaneous machine gang, wheel and box gang, and the erection shop with its several gangs.

Both night and day work are required for servicing the big locomotives in coming to the Alton shops for general repair.

When the day shift, active at the many machines that service the engine parts, leave work at 4 p.m. a second shift goes on duty until 12:30 A.M., and their special job is to handle the big crane, picking up whole engines or boilers, placing them on the proper tracks for the next day's work.

On five nights a week at 11 p.m. two employes start their work of sandblasting of engine frames, crossties and cylinders, working until 7 a.m..

Wet sand under powerful air pressure is used to cut away the paint, rust grease or any dirt, leaving the bare gleaming metal. The purpose is not so much to permit a clean paint job as it is to permit a thorough inspection for cracks or defects which can be seen clearly when this process is used.

One side of the locomotive is sandblasted at a time, heavy canvas hung over all parts where sand is not desired and to keep the flying sand away from engines on nearby tracks. After sandblasting, the floor and pits are cleaned and washed in preparation for the day shift.

These night operators are a small part of the total heavy repair process.

The locomotive comes off the road and goes first through the round-house where the boiler is washed, flues blown out, the front end cleaned, the back arch tubes taken out of the fire box, the ash pan cleaned, the engine washed all over outside.

Then the engine is placed on No. 2 track in the backshop. Here the stripping gang disconnects the tank, takes off all main and side rods, brake rigging, binders, shoes and wedges. The truck and trailer are disconnected and the engine made ready to have the frames and boiler lifted off the wheels by the 150 ton crane.

This advance work includes removal of all pipes on the boiler that will interfere with the crane sling or that need repair. This advance process takes place in the regular day shift operating from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. when the crane men come on to the job.

The second day in the shop after the crane has lifted off the boiler and frame, includes taking off the spring rigging, sending the wheels and axles to their departments, the journal boxes going to their departments. Small 10 ton cranes are used for transporting the smaller items.

All brake rigging left in the pit is put in large iron baskets, together with the binders, shoes, wedges, driving boxes and these baskets are dipped into the lye vat where the cleaning solution removes all the oil and grease, the cleansed parts going to their departments.

ALTON ENGINE SETS RECORD

The inspection of an Alton passenger locomotive, No. 5299 revealed that she has completed a record that is believed to be unequalled in the entire history of railroading. This engine has gone 589,571 miles in six years on one set of flues and those flues are still in good condition.

Only a light coating of sediment and scale was found in the big boiler when the flues were removed to permit the regular federal inspection to determine its safety factor. Twice the federal locomotive inspection bureau has granted extensions of the time for flue removal because of their sound condition and a slight let-up in inspection requirements in the interests of economy.

A tightening in the inspection bureau requirements now in effect will make it impossible for the other engines to have an opportunity to excel this record. And it is reported that not many engines over the country could excel this record if given the opportunity, due to the fact that impure water gives greater difficulty in formation of scale in many areas.

The record of engine 5299 is considered a compliment to the mechanical, chemical and operating departments of the Alton railroad. Nearly fifty million gallons of water were converted into steam in this boiler, yet no great deposit of scale was in evidence inside the boiler or on the flues. Over 32,000 tons of coal were burned in the firebox, yet the crown sheet, flue sheet and the flues themselves held up in good condition and there were no leaks when the engine reported in for the boiler inspection.

Engineers and firemen are given credit for properly blowing down of the boiler to expel sediment, prevent foaming and scale, and for proper handling of the fire.

Boilermakers receive much of the credit for fitting the boiler properly when it received its last flue removal inspection, six years ago.

But the chemists in the water department, who treated the water and kept on the alert throughout those six years to vary the water treatment with each change of season, or of water supply, receive a good portion of the congratulations. They use sodium carbonate, first cousin to baking soda, to soften hard water. But the proportions must be varied continually according to the season, for no water supply is constant in its characteristics.

Thirty thousand miles used to be considered a good life for flues. That was before the need for balance in the treatment of water was fully understood. The short life was not so much due to inferior quality of metal in the tubes as to the heavy cakes of scale that formed inside the boiler, resulting in tubes scorching or burning under the heat.

This engine differs from other Alton locomotives in that it is equipped with a solid steel bed frame with cylinders came in one place with the frame. Cast iron bushings are used in the cylinders. This construction results in less vibration and strain. In part due to this solid construction, the engine has gone 483,000 miles on one set of valve rings and has a good general record for all mechanical parts as well as boiler condition.

No method to prevent wear of mechanical parts has ever been devised, yet the chemists have pretty well solved the scale problem. The flues which have been removed from No. 5299 are to be carefully weighed and checked with the original weight six years ago. This will reveal the amount of wear or erosion within the tubes, caused by particles of cinders being forced through with the flame and smoke. Some of the flues may be discarded and some may be passed by the examiner for future use in this or some other engine.

This article regarding Engine #5299 was taken from a clipping from the Pantagraph which I have in my scrap book. I thought it would be interesting. I regret there was no date on the article. Another interesting article I found is as follows:

A government scale-test car of unusual design -- only two like it in the whole world - is now passing over the Alton railroad to test track scales with 100,000 pounds of weight and with an allowable error of only eight pounds.

It is a car within a car, for one of the 10,000 test weights is in the form of a small four wheeled car with electric drive so that it can be moved over the scales. The main car is equipped with a lifting derrick, used to place the small test car on the track. And the big car is equipped with a power plant to supply current for rolling the test weight over the scales. One after another the 10 test weights may be lowered onto the test car until it supports the full 100,000 pound load.

Light aluminum paint is used on the test weights. This prevents weight change through moisture absorption, and the paint itself is so light that if a few chips are knocked off in handling, the weight will not be effected greatly. Formerly lead paint was used, but its weight proved a handicap, for a few chips from it permitted too great an error to accumulate before the test car returned to a master scale.

Every precaution is used to avoid wear on the movable test weight. Its parts are permitted to remain in operation only during the time the weight is actually rolling over the scales tested. At other times the weight is carefully tucked away in the crane car. No dust, grease or moisture is allowed to accumulate on the weights, and they are frequently checked with master scales maintained by the federal government.

No class of equipment in the entire country is subject to closer federal inspection and regulation than railroad locomotives.

Federal laws compel monthly inspection of every locomotive in use, sworn statements being made monthly and that the inspections have been made and reports left in the cab of every engine so that inspectors at any terminal may determine the date last inspected and the condition.

Low water is the most dangerous of all boiler conditions for low water can cause any ordinary type of railroad boiler to explode, no matter how strongly built.

The monthly locomotive inspection and repair reports call for 18 items. The steam gauges must be inspected, the safety valve tested and its popping point reported, injectors tested, steam leaks repaired, the boiler washed, gauge cocks and water glass cock spindles removed and cocks cleaned to be sure they are not stopped up and that they will accurately record the water level. The condition of staybolts and flues and firebox sheets, arch, water bar tubes and the condition of brakes, driving gear and the tender are also reported monthly.

Most locomotive boilers are equipped with a fusible plug in the crown sheet which will melt if the water is permitted to go below the safety level, the escaping steam putting out the fire. This low water alarm usually puts out the fire and stops the engine before the boiler is ruptured in case of low water, but not always. Each month this safety fusible plug must be removed and cleaned. The usual practice here is to place a new fusible plug in the crown sheet, rather than to clean the old one.

Annually reports are also required, certifying that the required hydrostatic pressure tests have been made, inspection of caps and flexible stay bolts and removal of flues. The boiler must withstand a hydrostatic pressure test 25 percent in excess of its rated capacity.

The caps must be removed from all flexible staybolts to permit thorough inspection every two years.

All flues must be removed at least every four years.

All lagging must be removed from the boilers to permit inspection of every inch of outer surface every five years.

Every six months the drawbars between the locomotive and tender must be removed and annealed to guard against crystallization. Each month the bars and their pins are inspected.

Inspection reports also cover the airbrakes, compressors examined quarterly, the main reservoirs, tested annually and every piece of the equipment receiving regular examination.

Smaller Crews Service more Alton and B & O Engines

Seventy-one engines were repaired in the Alton railroad shops during the month of October. These consisted of four Alton engines for heavy repairs; two B & O. terminal engines for heavy repairs, eight B. & O. engines for heavy repairs, 56 Alton engines for light repairs and one B. & O. engine for light repairs. The work was done in 18 working days of the shopmen.

The improvement in efficient means of handling the work since the B. & O. took over the Alton is seen in a comparison of this number of engines repaired, with only a little more than half of the month worked, with the work in the old shop days when full time employment was the condition and the number of employes was twice as great.

"Spot" Method Used.

In October last year there were three engines for heavy repairs and 31 light, a total of 34. In October, 1931, there were 22 engines given heavy repairs, and 36 given light repairs, a total of 48. That was the year the B. & O. took over the Alton and instituted in the back shop the "spot" system of handling repair work.

This method is for engines to be lifted from pit to pit and at each station certain types of repairs are given, each engine visiting the pits in turn where work of that type is needed. The shifting is made by the traveling crane.

Interest is found in comparing the above October totals, 71, 34 and 48 for the past three years with the total of the other years backed to the World war. Here are the figures as kept in the Alton shop records for October each year:

1930 - No output, August, September, October.
1929 - 12 heavy engines, four light, total, 16.
1928 - 11 heavy, no light, total 11.
1927 - Eight heavy, one light, total, nine.
1926 - 13 heavy, no light, total 13.
1925 - 13 heavy, three light, total 16.
1924 - Eight heavy, six light, total 14.
1923 - 18 heavy, one light, total 19.
1922 - No output account of the strike.
1921 - 13 heavy, one light, total, 14.
1920 - 14 heavies, no light, total, 14.

The average of October work in the years there was an output is 14 engines, which seems small when compared with the output of 71, and is found to be still smaller when the facts are taken into consideration that today a smaller force of men worked only 18 days and before 1930 a larger force of men worked full time.

The old method of repairing engines was to put one on a pit and leave it there, each craft doing its work on it as was found necessary. It is to be remembered, however, that in the "old days" more parts were processed and manufactured in the local plant than is being done now.

Efficiency in the organization of manufacturing is known to be one of the main causes of unemployment and the reorganization of the work in the Alton back shop is found to be a typical example.

In 1932 the B. & O. took all of the Alton's smaller type locomotives and cars and scrapped them. The 136 locomotives were scrapped and 6,000 cars were destroyed. The locomotive material was sold as scrap at the rate of \$6.00 per ton. All of this scrap went to Japan who made bullets out of it.

Following is another article taken from my scrap book:

"Torchmen started Wednesday cutting up the remaining 90 discarded Alton locomotives which are to be sent to the scrap market.

Two engines a day will be cut apart with the oxyacetylene flames, whose 6,000 degrees of heat melts through heavy boiler plate at the rate of two inches a second. The volcanic heat at the core of the earth is calculated to be only 2,732 degrees Fahrenheit.

The big wrecked derrick and a small crane are kept busy lifting the scrap metal out of the way as the torchmen burn the engines apart. All metal parts are classified and loaded into cars for the trip to market.

Without the use of oxyacetylene flames such projects as the dismantling of locomotives for junk would be out of the question at present prices for scrap. Each torch operator does in one day as much work as would require a month without this modern convenience. Each rivet would have to be driven out of the boilers with sledges or air hammers, each bolt unscrewed, and heavy power shears would be required to cut up the larger pieces of metal.

With the torches, it is easier to cut a rusty bolt than to force the nut off with heavy wrenches. A definite system of cutting up the engines has been worked out to accomplish the desired results with the least effort. The boiler is first stripped and the cab removed. Then the boiler top is cut off, the heads cut out, the whole assembly of tubes removed at one time and the firebox split. A well planned series of cuts reduces the frame and fittings to sizes suitable for the blast furnaces in a surprisingly short time. The big cranes are kept busy loading the scrap on the waiting gondolas.

1933

Business was bad on the railroad and I proposed to one of the Executives to run an excursion from Bloomington to Chicago at reduced rates, in order to get the people railroad minded.

The Century of Progress was on in Chicago, which would be quite an incentive to get the people to Chicago. I told this Executive we could get 1,000 people from Bloomington to make this trip to Chicago at the rate of \$1.00 per person, round trip. He said the job was mine to do. He sent two of his assistants to help me with this project.

The Alton band was taken to all small surrounding towns and played free concerts during the evenings to advertise this excursion. When the day came there were three trains, carrying 3,000 people. The band was also taken to Chicago and played a concert at the Century of Progress which was broadcast through loud speakers over the grounds, advertising the B. & O. and Alton Railroads. After all expenses were met the railroad showed a profit of \$600.00 for this one occasion.

After seeing the fair once, many of the people from Bloomington and its surrounding communities made additional trips to Chicago, paying the regular fare which did a lot in creating revenue for the railroad.

A \$1.50 excursion was also made to St. Louis, which was a very successful venture.

During these hard times there were a great many men layed off from the shops. The Superintendent of Motive Power asked all of the men under his jurisdiction to donate one days pay for relief of the Alton's men who were unemployed. \$35,000 was raised for this project. Needy families received from \$2.00 to \$4.00 per week for groceries. All of this took place before relief from the city was put into effect and lasted for about a year, then the city took over.

Along with all our hard work, we had fun too. For example:

Taken from a Pantagraph article appearing in my scrap book.

ALTON HUNTERS HOLD SUCCESSFUL FORAY BY RAIL

Joseph, Schneeberger, Alton shop Superintendent, and 18 shop supervisors engaged in an unique type of hunting trip Friday in which they used a locomotive and a caboose to tour hunting grounds south of Springfield on the C. S. & St. L. Railway. The trip was so far as the men are concerned, a decided success.

Through the courtesy of H. J. Hadden, general manager of the C.S. & St. L. the party was provided the special train consisting of a locomotive and a caboose. Arrangements for details of the hunting trip were made with R. O. Janes, general foreman of C.S. & St. L. railway at Springfield. The first leg of the trip was made by automobile to Springfield and thence to the C.S. & St. L. roundhouse where locomotive No. 30 and caboose No. 531 were waiting to take the party out to the hunting grounds. An interesting feature of engine 30 is that it was formerly C & A engine 342 and when the B. & O acquired control of the road and changed the name to the Alton, this engine was renumbered 2418 and then sold to the C.S. & St. L. who changed the number of the engine to 30.

Like Jesse James

After loading guns, ammunition and luggage on the special train, it pulled out at 9:50 a.m. with five hunters on the front end of the engine, two on top of the tank, and the remainder either on the front end or back end of the caboose or in the cupola. Anyone watching the train roll along the right of way could have had visions of what one of Jasse

James' bandit trains looked like.

Mr. Janes was the engineer, A. E. Jones hostler, was the fireman, and Mr. Schneeberger was the conductor. George Spence, miscellaneous machine foreman of the Alton was the flagman.

Hunters Go In Relays

The first game to fall prey to the marksmanship of the foremen was a flock of quails that got up ahead of the engine. After the bombardment from the hunters on the head of the engine was over, only one bird had escaped. The train was stopped and the quail picked up. Carl Totterer, boiler foreman, Orville Jolly, valve foreman and L. L. Nelson, truck and trailer foreman as well as A. Troegle, pipefitter and K. Aldredge, blacksmith, earned marksmanship medals for their accurate shooting in this foray.

The hunt proceeded. C. W. Osner, tank boiler foreman, excelled in shooting rabbits from the top of the tank. Each time any game was shot the train was stopped and the game picked up and loaded in the caboose. About 15 miles out of Springfield the train was stopped to let the hunters off on the shooting grounds in relays. At the first stop, Messrs. Totterer, Nelson, Jolly, Frank Walsh, Aldridge and A. Troegle left the train to start hunting along the right of way and to follow the train into the town of Waverly. Another relay of four hunters, William G. Schneeberger, Wm. Wannemacher, Osner and J. E. Farmer left the train five miles further down the track. Another five miles and another relay of hunters consisting of H. B. Osten, H. Gehle, Joseph Bosshard left the train. Another five miles and another relay consisting of H. Peepo, George Spence and H. F. Lambrecht left the train and proceeded on the hunt.

The train and crew then proceeded to Waverly where orders were obtained for the return trip."

1941 - 1945

World War #2 was on. Railroad equipment was getting old, which meant it took more time to get a job completed. The shops were working full time and lots of overtime as the railroads had lots of work to do, moving troops and war equipment.

1946 - 1949

The Gulf, Mobile and Ohio took the Alton railroad over. The Alton became the Northern region and became known as the "Alton Route".

On May 7, 1946 all of the Engineers on all of the railroads throughout the United States went out on strike. The shops and round house were closed about four days. When the Government took over the railroads and the shops were re-opened only a small portion of the men were taken back to work for the reason that the G.M. & O. Railroad were Deisel-izing the entire system. It requires less men to repair diesels than it does steam locomotives, so steam locomotives were scrapped as fast as possible and replaced by diesels. So now, in 1949 there are very very few steam engines left. The road is 90% deiselized. Most of the machinery has now been scrapped as it cannot be used on diesel work. The small amount of machinery left has now been moved back to the old Machine Shops. The Blacksmith Shop has been moved to the old Blacksmith Shops. Several of the buildings have

been rented to other concerns.

All of the diesels are new and they therefore require very little repair. A switch engine diesel can work in the yards all week without going in for any attention whatsoever, working day and night, whereby a steam engine had to go in every 24 hours to get coal and water and have the fire boxes cleaned. All of this is now eliminated.

Another great record has now been achieved for the Alton by the G.M. & O. as it is now one of the first railroads of the country to be totally dieselized.

I, Joseph Schneeberger was born August 30, 1886 in Bloomington, Illinois, the son of Joseph and Jackabine Schneeberger. I was educated in both the Bloomington and Peoria public schools, as at the age of eight my folks moved to Peoria where we resided for several years.

I can remember at about this time of the big Railroad strike all over the country. I can remember when Coxie's Army marched to Washington, D. C.. This Army was comprised of men out of work who were seeking jobs and who had formed an army to go to Washington to seek help.

Like all small boys I had a newspaper route, both in Peoria and Bloomington. At that time papers sold for 5¢ and we boys would receive 1¢ for each paper we sold. In Peoria it was the Chicago World which was printed on pink paper and published only on Saturday. In Bloomington it was the Pantagraph and the old Leader which later became the Bulletin.

The Spanish American War came and my folks moved back to Bloomington.

In 1900 I secured a job in the Five and Ten which was owned by Mr. Louis Faust. This store was located at 114 North Center Street between Sharthose Drug Store and Rodgers Shoe Store. Next to Rodgers Shoe Store was Northrup's Drygoods Store and on the corner was the Peoples Bank. Mr. Faust's store was one of the very few places in Bloomington not destroyed by the big fire in 1900. While working here I was Stock Clerk. The store comprised three floors and a basement. In those days I was a well paid young man, my salary being \$2.50 a week.

In 1903 I entered the Chicago and Alton Shops and served my time as a Machinist Apprentice receiving 5¢ an hour for a ten hour day. After four years of this I became a full fledged Machinist.

On February 23, 1910 I married Miss Ann L. Hill, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Hill of this city. Mr. Hill at that time was Chief Boiler Inspector for the entire Chicago and Alton Railroad. We have one daughter, Catherine Jo'Ann (Mrs. G. A. Anderson) of this city.

In 1923 I was appointed as General Erecting foreman and in 1925 I was made General Machine Foreman. In 1927 I was promoted to Assistant Shop Superintendent and in 1929 was made Shop Superintendent. During the Depression in 1938 this position was abolished however, I still retained a supervisory position with the Alton Railroad until my retirement on March 26, 1949 due to ill health.

Along with my many duties with the railroad I have been quite interested and very active in several other things. I was a member of the old Dillon Band, also the old Majestic Band which later merged into the Bloomington Band of which I am still a member. I played with Louis Balle's orchestra, who was quite popular in the days of yesterday. We played many dances at the Coliseum and old Horton's Lake. Along with still being an active member of the Bloomington Band I am also an active member in the Knight Templar Band, the Consistory Band and the Mohammed Shrine Band of Peoria.

During Mayer Wellmerling's term of office Civil Service was voted in for the firemen and policemen. He appointed me as Chairman of the Board of Civil Service Police and Fire Commission. My fellow board members and I set up all of the rules which are to be followed in accordance with Civil Service regulations. During this time we held examinations for future policemen and firemen.

I am a member of the Board of Directors of the McLean County Red Cross and also on the board for the Bureau of Social Service.

I am a member of the Wade Barney Masonic Lodge, Consistory, the Knight Templar and the Peoria Mohammed Shrine.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The following was taken from an article which appeared in the Daily Pantagraph in 1933.

Joseph Schneeberger, 721 West Jefferson Street, is nominated for the Community Service Award for 1933, for sympathetic labors and broad humanitarian spirit shown during the trying times of limited employment among families dependent on Alton Railroad for their livelihood. Mr. Schneeberger has been shop superintendent at the Alton since October 1929, but the work for which his name is suggested for the Community Service Award is largely beyond his sphere as an official of the Alton.

INCOME FOR MANY

"During the time when a skeleton force was at work in the Alton shops", writes his nominator, "Mr. Schneeberger by a policy of rotating the employees on the available jobs, gave some employment each month to a large group of employees, which provided income for many, rather than a stated income for a few. For example in one specific month 427 men were worked on 109 job assignments.

"In the social and athletic activities of the Alton employees at Western Avenue Community Center was built last year by voluntary labor of the railroad employees, and the blacksmith foreman, M. Blum, of the locomotive shops, headed the organization of insuring that the erection of the stage was carried forward to completion, he gave Mr. Blum wholehearted support and was the leading factor in securing the transfer of some of the funds of the Alton Athletic association to meet the expenses of the project, such as the food provided the workmen, some of the pressing and urgent bills for material that could only be obtained by a cash outlay.

ON RELIEF COMMITTEE

"Mr. Schneeberger was on the general committee of the Alton Emergency Relief Association that administered the funds raised by subscriptions from railroad employees at work to tide over their more unfortunate fellow employees out of work and destitute, and which so materially worked hand in hand with the Civic Emergency Relief Committee of Bloomington and Normal during this grave period. In January 1932, he loaned from his staff the force necessary to enable the Civic Emergency Relief Committee to handle the cases of railroad employees when the Alton Emergency Relief funds were exhausted, and also encouraged members of his staff to act on the Civic Emergency Relief Committee and was himself a member of the Fuel, Gas and Light Committee.

ORIGINATED BAND.

"With Yontz Bonnett, who had taken the responsibility for furnishing milk and cereal foods to families on relief, he personally assigned groups and took an active part himself in seeing that such supplies reached needy and deserving families. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, he personally purchased supplies and made up baskets of groceries and saw they were distributed to needy railroad workers out of employment insofar as his funds could provide.

"He together with A. V. Manskey, originated and developed the Alton Community band to provide the younger musicians of the community with the opportunity to become a part of such a musical organization and to perfect their musical training and ability. To give you an appreciation of the range of territory covered by the operations of the band will say that musicians from Bloomington, Normal, Towanda, Lexington, Heyworth, Shirley, and Stanford were members of the band and participated in its activities. The Alton Community band from January 1, 1933 to date has given concerts at the Bloomington Consistory for the unemployed, at Western Avenue Community Center, at the Music Parade at the Coliseum, at the Industrial Leagues' softball games at both State Farm Mutual and Oil-O-Matic Fields, at Lexington, Towanda, Court House, Bloomington, played on excursion train to Century of Progress August 27, and gave a concert at the Century of Progress grounds, played concerts at East Bay Camp, Lake Bloomington, McLean, NRA parade and at Fairview sanitarium.

"In my opinion with but this brief review of a few of the communal activities of Mr. Schneeberger, it is fitting that recognition should be given his efforts in the bestowal of the Community Award."

THE UNION DEPOT
by
WILLIAM B. GLOONEY

Bloomington Ills., December 1949.

T H E U N I O N D E P O T .

Winston Churchill recently made the terse statement; "There will always be an England", and be that as it may, there, too, shall always be a UNION DEPOT, just so long as there shall be a railroad, which shall be just as long as our citizens appreciate and protect their liberty, for it has been demonstrated in the two WORLD CONFLICTS, that the railroads are indispensable to the life and development of this nation.

The UNION DEPOT has been, and shall continue to be, an institution of more than passing importance, as it touches the life of each one of us, for thru it's portals, has passed, and shall continue to pass, countless thousands, representing every phase of life.

From the tiny tot, in mothers arms, and the older ones that toddle along, to the children of kindergarten age, who, with their teachers, come to the depot, to see and learn something of the railroad and it's operations; from children of grade school age, accompanied by their parents, to children of high school age, taking trips to Chicago, St. Louis, or points beyond our line, they come.

Also come graduates from our high schools, leaving for colleges in all parts of the United States, to further their education, as well as students who come to Bloomington to attend our schools or Universities at Bloomington or Normal.

Then too, come the bride and groom, with the flush of youth on their cheeks; with love in their hearts; and steadfast faith in each other, and with fondest hopes of what the future may hold for them.

The vacationists to the mountains, the seashore, the National Parks, and other resorts to further their travel education; or the tired business man, or business woman, on periodical business trips, or to take a few days away from the cares of business, for a relaxation that only travel can give.

The elderly people taking their trips Northward to avoid the excessive summer heat; or leaving for sunny southern climes to escape the rigors of our cold winters, many of whom return season after season, much rejuvenated and sun tanned, while some, we miss the following season, for TIME, that rolls its ceaseless course and takes its unrelenting toll, has placed his hand upon their shoulders and beckoned them to their home, which is beyond this life.

Yes indeed, the UNION DEPOT is a gigantic stage, upon which there are many players, each one entering, some once, some often, but each one playing a minor or a major roll, then taking his bow, and making his exit, to make room for the countless thousands that shall follow thru the future generations.

Having started my work with the Alton Railroad Company June 4th., 1900, and having continued in service with the same road, I have some recollection of the Union depot, which when built, I presume, was an architect's dream, but which, in later years, was more of an architect's night-mare.

I recall the old wooden structure, with its separate waiting rooms, with the ticket office in between, and with ticket clerks pacing back and forth, first to wait on some women, in the ladies room, then to a man at the opposite side of the office in the mens' room. I recall, too, the huge round coal burning stoves, with the coal boxes nearby, in each waiting room; and the baggage room which had no connection from the station proper, making it necessary to go outside to check the baggage.

In those days, it was estimated that no less than four hundred traveling men left Bloomington each Monday morning, taking our trains, or trains of the New York Central, or Nickel Plate, which in those days were mostly local trains, each road having three local trains each way per day. Much baggage, but very little mail was handled, as this was prior to the Parcel Post business being inaugurated.

The new station erected in 1913 was opened with a public reception, with music and fan fare, on Oct 2nd, having been built on same location as older station, part of old station being torn down to make room for the new one.

Mr Geo. J Charlton, Passenger Traffic Manager was present for the opening, along with many other officials, including Mr B A. Worthington, who was then President. As part of the ceremony, Mr Alonzo Dolan, Sr. was the first person to purchase a ticket, which he expected to keep as a memento of the occasion.

When entering the service in 1900, when the old station was occupied, the usual hours of service were twelve hours a day - seven days per week, and work consisted not only in selling tickets,

but telegraphing, as there were three dispatchers located in Bloomington, one for the North- one for the South- and one for the Jacksonville Line.

This was back in the days when management, not only of the railroads, but all business, had not advanced to the thought, that;

"Seven hours to law,
To soothing slumber seven,
Ten to the world alot,
And all to HEAVEN"

made for a better work day- a better workman- a better world in which to live and rear a family; and a more democratic way of life.

Rather, the idea that seemed to prevail, might well be expressed as;

"The toad beneath the harrow knows,
Exactly where the sharp tooth goes,
The butterfly upon the road,
Preaches contentment to the toad."

And as I look back thru the corridor of years, in service, I might continue on in apoeitic vein and say, that the heights by labor, just like;

"The heights by great men reached and kept,
Were not attained by sudden flight,
But they, while their companions slept,
Were toiling upward in the night."

The period from 1900 to 1950 saw many changes in our passenger fares, and at the turn of the century our rate was three cents per mile. At that time it was the policy of railroads operating in Illinois to extend free transportation to legislators, many State, County, and City officials. All the roads agreed to eliminate all this, and this was done. Almost overnight the legislature at Springfield passed a law reducing the fare from three to two cents per mile. Since that time there have been many revisions in our rates to meet the new conditions which have arisen.

Automobiles were just coming into being at the turn of the century, along with our system of paved highways, and construction of electric lines, all of which were new phases of competition to our business and tended to greatly reduce rail traffic. Steam was the prevailing power, while today the Gulf Mobile & Ohio R.R. is in practically 100% diesel power.

For many years the Union Depot operated in a rather routine way, then suddenly the first World War broke upon our nation. In a short time the boys were being called by the draft board, and leaving on our trains for their training camps, and I recall on one particular day about one hundred fifty left on our mid-day train to St. Louis, enroute to Jefferson Barracks. The Army canteen was erected on our station grounds and performed a very splendid service for the duration.

Long special trains in either direction were soon passing thru Bloomington, stopping here, and while trains were being serviced, the entire contingent would detrain, line up, and preceded by a military band, playing some catchy tune like "OVER THERE", march up town as far as the Courthouse, and returning would climb on board, while band would play "Till We Meet Again".

Many touching scenes were enacted as our local boys left for camps, and our FRONT STREET BRIDGE may well be called "THE BRIDGE OF SIGHS" for literally thousands passed over or walked under it, with tear stained faces, and with genuine sorrow and fear in their hearts, for they knew full well, that many of these boys would make the supreme sacrifice, for what they hoped would be a lasting peace.

History has proven the futility of that thought for the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, paved the way for a re-enactment of those scenes at the Union Station, on a much larger scale but a more orderly way of handling the greatly increased number of enlistees and troops.

Many changes of management and operation ensued during the half century. The most marked one was the sale of the Alton RR Company to the Baltimore and Ohio RR at Wilmington Ills July 18th 1931. It is my thought that something tangible was lost by this transaction, for the Alton R.R. Co had gained an enviable national reputation for it's famous "RED TRAINS" with it's two outstanding conductors- the one, Condr A B Corey, he, with a very military style and the other Conductor Frank Fox, with his tall stature, and suave disposition; both conductors faultlessly attired in their blue uniforms and white caps.

It was not long until the color of our trains was changed, to conform to the Baltimore & Ohio standard color, and it seems to me that we lost much in the way of our long established national reputation.

It was Kipling, I believe, who wrote;

"East is East and West is West,

And never the twain shall meet."

and that to me, expresses the relationship which existed between the Alton and the Baltimore and Ohio R.R.

In due time, the Baltimore & Ohio broke away from the old Alton R R Co., and later, in fact, at 11:59 P M May 31st 1947, we were taken over by the Gulf M^Obile & Ohio RR., and the old Alton R R Co is now designated as "The Gulf M_Obile & Ohio-The Alton Route", and the red color of our trains has been restored.

Kipling's verse might now be revised to read;

"North is North and South is South,

And ever the trains shall meet",

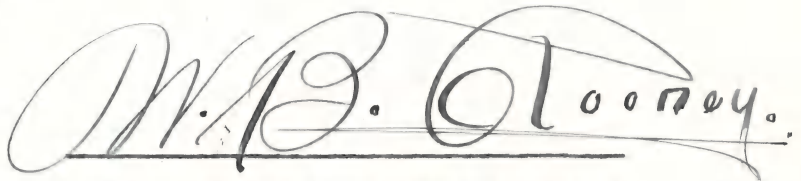
for as I write this, we find the "ABRAHAM LINCOLN" and "ANN RUTLEDGE", touching hands, as it were, at the Union Station, StLouis, with the "GULF COAST REBEL".

Having been asked to contribute this article on the "UNION DEPOT, I think it is fitting that I do not write "finis" to it, without placing in the record, just one thought of sincere appreciation, and thanks to the public, who have been most gracious to me, in my efforts to serve them- a service, which, to many, covered four generations of some of Bloomington's most prominent families, and a service, not confined to this immediate railroad, but to the four corners of, and around, the world.

Now,as I look into the setting sun,and cast a backward glance,and see the evening shadows lengthen,I know the time is not too far distant,when I shall be obliged to throw the torch to some young man,to catch,to lift aloft,to hold on high,and carry on.

The public,by their graciousness to me,have really said it "WITH FLOWERS",while I have been able to see their beauty, and inhale their fragrance,and am sure,that in having done so, have found a great satisfaction in their hearts,so in conclusion, may I say;

"Scatter the roses while you may,
Old time is still a flying,
For that same flower, which blooms today,
Tomorrow may lie dying".

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "W.B. Clooney." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

W.B.CLOONEY. TICKET AGENT.

AUTO--BIOGRAPHY
OF
WILLIAM. B. CLOONEY

(1)

Bloomington Ills., Dec., 31st., 1949

It is quite understandable to me, something of the writer, who was prompted to pen these lines;

"Oft in the stilly night
Ere slumbers chains have bound me,
Fond memory brings the light,
Of other days around me",

for I, too, oft in the midnight hours, as I lie awake, think back to home and childhood, and thoughts center around my parents, especially so, in the later years of my life.

Significant, it seems, that my mother was born on March 17th-St Patrick's Day, and when I dwell on those thoughts, it seems that my thoughts cannot be restrained.

They carry me away, in fancy, over hill and dale, across the prairies, and over the mountains, of this land of ours, to the Atlantic Seashore, where they seem to hover momentarily but thoughtfully, over the STATUE OF LIBERTY-that beacon, which has brought hope to millions.

They then wing their way across that great expanse of the Atlantic ocean, and again they hover high in the sky over that little Island, noted for its literature-it's scholars, and its Saints. It is Ireland that I see, that knows no boundaries, other than the blue waters of the Atlantic, which caress its shores and the canopy of stars, and the blue heaven above.

In fancy, I can see a young man standing at the rail of a ship, as it slowly heads westward, and then again, on another date, I can see a young woman, likewise standing at the rail of another steamer, and with tear stained eyes, waving goodbye to family- to friends- to her native land, and to so much that she held so dear, but each still clinging fast to the faith that had been handed down to them thru the centuries, and with an abiding faith in each other, landing in America, after a long and slow journey.

These two met again, were married, and lived thru sixty four years of wedded life, each living to the exceedingly old age of ninety four years, and I feel sure that in all those years, while they still held cherished memories of their native Ireland, they never lost faith in the land of their adoption, to which they had come, seeking what countless thousands have sought- those four FREEDOMS, about which we hear so much today.

That was my parentage, for which I am both happy and proud, for I know that they, in their humble way, like countless thousands of liberty loving people, have come to America, and helped build this nation, and preserve it's freedom which we enjoy today.

I was born in Chenoa Ills., Oct 6th., 1879, the youngest of five children, and only my sister, Mrs. J. P. Schlink, who still lives in the old home place, survive.

I attended, and graduated from, the Chenoa high-school, June 15th., 1897, amidst rather unusual circumstances. I was the only member of the class of 1897, as three others, who were in the class quit school during their senior year.

Instead of holding the exercises in one of the churches or the old opera house, as was the custom, they were held in a very large tabernacle, which happened to be there, for some church revival.

I recall walking down the literal "SAW-DUST TRAIL" to the platform, and delivering an essay, which I had composed, entitled "ONE COUNTRY AND ONE FLAG", and reading it over recently (a copy of the Chenoa paper which carried the complete text, having been preserved by mother) I thought that the same ideas and ideals, which I had stressed half a century ago, are still the ones that shall keep America free. Teaching, seeming to be a family trait, I was rather pressed to follow in the same profession, and were it not for one twist of fate, I might still have continued in the same line of work.

Later, however, I learned telegraphy at the Toledo Peoria and Western RR in Chenoa, which is a joint station with the Alton RR Co., and one day word came from Pontiac that they needed a baggage-man there, so June 4th., 1900, I went to Pontiac and took up the work with the Alton RR Co.

Vacancies soon existed there for a night ticket clerk and telegrapher, then for the day position, which positions I filled until 1907.

In 1907, Mr. Geo. B. Perry, who was then Agent at Bloomington, came to Pontiac, and asked me if I would come to Bloomington, and take a position there, as it was necessary to make a change in his office. I accepted the position, which I held, until appointed Agent here July 24th 1911, and which station, I still hold.

I was married Feb. 18th., 1914 to Clara M. Forrester, of Bloomington, and was blessed with one daughter (Mary Frances), now Mary Frances Keys.

In my many years of service, I presume my experiences are quite similar to that of any other Ticket Agent, of other railroads, for a station the size of Bloomington.

There is just one incident, which stands out in my memory, outside the line of duty, which has a touch of the railroad in it, and one which gave me an opportunity to be helpful to a party, who, in the old home town, had helped me out of difficulty in the "OLD SWIMMING HOLE", at a time, "When a Fellow Needs a Friend".

He, like I, left Chenoa, and embarked in the railroad work, in train service, on a road out of Minneapolis, and became involved with the law, and was sentenced to life imprisonment, for the killing of a colored man, possibly with some justification for his act.

However, money, legal talent, and influence failed to have any change made in his sentence, and one day I received a letter from him asking if there was anything I could do in his behalf.

On receipt of his letter, I wrote to a Mr. W A Witherspoon, a railroad man in Minneapolis, and asked him if he would present my letter to the Governor.

He did this, stating; "I do not know, personally, the writer, or the party, about whom, he writes, but I would like to have you read this letter. After reading it, the Governor told him to present it to the Pardon Board, which was to meet Wednesday of the same week. That same week, I received a wire from Mr Witherspoon, to meet him at the gate, at the Union Station, Chicago, on arrival of his train, as his return train left for Minneapolis fifteen minutes later.

We met, and he had the young man with him, and after a hearty shake-hands, with both, Mr Witherspoon took from his pocket, an envelope, and told me to read the contents when I boarded my train. It proved to be an unconditional pardon. On arrival Chenoa, it was a surprised father, who looked up, as we entered his office, as he had no inkling of my effort.

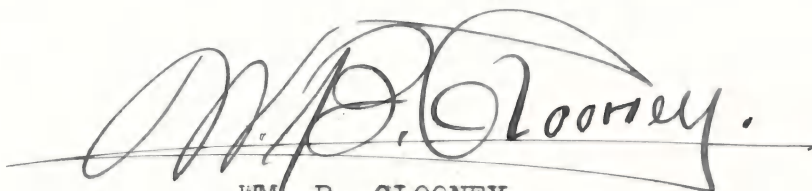
I felt much like a BOY SCOUT, who had done his good deed for the day, and in this case, it showed, that "The Pen is Mightier than the Sword", and that it still is a forceful weapon for good.

Now that I have reached the coveted period of life of "three score year and ten", I am thinking of Byron, who, as history records, lived rather recklessly, and succumbed at a very early age, who wrote;

"My days are in the yellow leaf;
The bloom of life and youth are gone;
The worm, the canker, and the grief,
Are mine alone",

but I still have a happier outlook on the future, for I
look ahead, and think it possible to retire, not so much
FROM life but TO life; one which will be less strenuous,
but still filled with many pleasant days ahead.

Those are my expectations and my hopes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wm. B. Clooney.", written over a horizontal line.

WM. B. CLOONEY
PASSENGER & TICKET AGENT

MOSES MONTEFIORE CONGREGATION: A CHRONOLOGY

BY

RABBI LOUIS A. JOSEPHSON

MOSES MONTEFIORE CONGREGATION: A CHRONOLOGY

by

RABBI LOUIS A. JOSEPHSON

1. Early Antecedents

- 1856 "Big" Aaron Livingston opened a clothing store in Bloomington.
- 1859 "Little" Aaron Livingston ("Big" Aaron's first cousin) came from Germany to Cincinnati as a peddler.
- 1864 After serving in the Civil War, "Little" Aaron came to Bloomington, introduced himself to his cousin, became associated in the business.
- 1880 "Big" Aaron took seriously ill and was not expected to live. Upon learning this, his father Hirsch Livingston came from Germany for a visit and was with his son for two months before his death. Hirsch Livingston saw that there were a number of young Jewish couples and families in Bloomington with no religious worship or instruction, so he requested his sons Meyer and Isaac to bring a Torah (Scroll of the Law, containing the Five Books of Moses) with them when they came from Germany to inherit "Big" Aaron's business.
- 1881 In the winter of this year Meyer Livingston arrived.

2. Founding the Congregation

May 14, 1882: Initial Meeting.

As described in the Book of Minutes, "In the Spring of 1882, a number of Jewish Gentlemen of our city met at the B'nai B'rith Hall (B'nai B'rith being a Jewish benevolent and fraternal order, a Lodge of which existed in Bloomington several years prior to this, and known as Abraham Lincoln Lodge #190 --ed.) for the purpose of organizing a congregation. Mr. Wolf Griesheim called the meeting to order, and after stating the object of the same Mr. Aaron Livingston was appointed Temporary Chairman and Mr. Jacob Heldman Temporary Secretary....A motion by Mr. Sigmund Heldman and seconded by Mr. Wolf Griesheim to organize a Jewish Congregation was unanimously carried.

"Mr. Aaron Livingston was elected permanent chairman and Mr. Jacob Heldman as permanent secretary."

May 21, 1882: Organizing Meeting.

Discussion of whether Sunday School should have paid head or conducted by gratuitous talent until such time as the congregation be able to engage a paid teacher.

Election of officers:

Mr. Aaron Livingston President
Mr. S. Altman Vice-Pres.
Mr. I. Heldman . . . Secretary
Mr. Wolf Griesheim . Treasurer

Trustees:

Sig. Heldman
Wm. Freeland
Jacob Freedman

Others attending this meeting were:

Hirsch Livingston, Simon S. Marx, Risel Livingston,
Meyer Livingston, Mike Livingston, Sam Livingston,
C. Winter, S. E. Dias, Jacob Freeland.

May 28, 1882: Religious School Organization Meeting.

Wolf Griesheim and Mike Livingston tendered gratis rooms over their building on Main Street for a Sunday School. An order was allowed for \$60 to pay for Sunday School books. The Secretary was instructed to write to Dr. Wise to send a student during vacation. (Dr. Isaac Mayer Wise, Rabbi in Cincinnati, Ohio, had founded the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati in 1875 for the training of rabbis. As part of their training students were assigned to small congregations to conduct services for the High Holy Days in September at the end of their summer vacation --ed.)

September, 1882: Our First Services.

Just two days before Rosh Hashonah (the Jewish New Year) Isaac Livingston arrived in Bloomington, bringing with him his own and his brother Meyer's families. He also brought with him the Torah which his father Hirsch had ordered written expressly for our congregation.

Services were conducted for the High Holy Days, Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) using this Torah in the worship, the place being the basement of the Unitarian Church.

March 25, 1883: Securing a Teacher.

It was announced to the congregation that we had the opportunity to secure the services of a teacher, Mr. Cadden, lately arrived from Europe (Germany). Proposition accepted. Suitable place for holding services obtained in the Free Congregational Church (a wooden structure located on the site now occupied by the Christian Science Church, and across Prairie Street from the site of the present Moses Montefiore Temple.) Sunday School also transferred, with the Misses Rose Livingston and Fannie Kohn acting as teachers.

Choir: Sig Heldman, Risel Livingston, Rose S. Livingston, Fannie Kohn, Mrs. Aaron Livingston.

Regular Friday evening services, regular holiday services, religious instruction for the children twice a week, were noted in the Book of Minutes.

"Resolved that the congregation adopt the reformed Minhag America, Dr. Wises ritual." --unanimously adopted. It is noted that in adopting the "Reformed Rite" in conducting our services, that men will worship with "hats off".

April 8,,1883: Budget.

Salary to Mr. Cadden	200.00
Rent	120.00
Janitor and Fuel	48.00
Musical Director	150.00
Music	10.00
Pulpit	30.00
Incidental	42.00
	<u>\$600.00</u>

which is to be paid as follows:

24 children attending Sunday School	@ 50/month	144.00
13 members of I class	25/year	325.00
8 members of II class	15/year	120.00
9 members of III class	10/year	90.00
		<u>\$604.00</u>

The Musical Director was Prof. Beuter, local music teacher.

April 23, 1883: Naming the Congregation.

Committee on Lots reported that they could buy one which was suitable. Instructed to act.

Moved that our congregation be called the Moses Montefiore Congregation to take effect on the birthday of Moses Montefiore on October 1. Carried.

Item in "THE DAILY BULLETIN" of Thursday, April 21, 1910:

THE NAME WAS
HIS SUGGESTION

INCIDENT FOR NAMING OF JEWISH
CONGREGATION FOR SIR
MOSES MONTEFIORE

In the will of the late Michael Livingston, published in the Bulletin yesterday it was noted that he left an annual sum to the Moses Montefiore Hebrew Congregation of this city. Mr. Sig Heldman, who is a charter member of the congregation, says that the name Moses Montefiore was suggested by Mr. Livingston, who was an original member and always a generous supporter. At that time of the organization, he suggested that it would be appropriate to name the body in honor of Sir Moses Montefiore, the famous English philanthropist, who was of the Jewish faith. Jacob Heldman was secretary of the congregation and wrote

to Sir Moses telling him of the selection. The great philanthropist, who has since died, was then over one hundred years of age, but replied in a note of appreciation which Mr. Heldman has always carefully cherished.

December 17, 1883.

Mr. I. Cadden elected as minister for another year. Agreed that Mr. Cadden would receive \$500 per year from April next. (He served here two years April 1883-5)

June 15, 1885.

Mr. J. Schaumberg of Hamberg, Germany, arrived on II Cabin ticket costing \$58 sent by the congregation, cost of ticket to be deducted from his \$400 if he is not satisfactory. (This item in the Book of Minutes indicates culmination of negotiations for a successor to Mr. Cadden as teacher.)

September 5, 1886.

Mr. Schaumberg is entering the Hebrew Union College. He is coming from Cincinnati to conduct services. (Evidently it was his intention to study for the Rabbinate and would officiate in the local pulpit for the High Holy Days. However, it is the recollection of those who were active during this period that Mr. Schaumberg's resignation from the teaching position in Bloomington was not followed by study at the College so perhaps his ambitions in this direction were not realized.)

3. Building the Synagogue.

October 1885.

Mr. Risel Livingston purchased from the Watson estate for \$2035 property suitable for construction of a synagogue building. A Mortgage of \$700 from bank at 8%. Residence standing on the property pays us \$15 monthly in advance.

November 1885.

Congregation incorporated by Trustees, proper officers elected.

March 1886.

Purim Ball raised \$1000. (On Jewish Holiday of Purim celebrating story told in the Book of Esther it was then customary for the Jews of Bloomington to hold a Ball in the B'nai B'rith Hall annually. On this occasion the proceeds were devoted to the building fund.)

Autumn 1887.

Committee appointed to raise funds; very successful. With \$4500 on hand, plans drafted for \$9000 building. Among contributors: Ladies of the Jewish Benevolent Society, Children of the Literary Club.

August 6, 1888.

Cornerstone placed.

May 31, 1889

Temple dedicated, Rabbi Edward N. Calisch of Peoria officiating.

Additional members at this time were:

Isaac Livingston	Albert Livingston	E. Huhn
John Backrach	Abe Livingston	Jos. Kohn
S. Hammerslough	Emanuel Gantz	Hyman Marx
A. Altman	H. C. Kupfer	

4. Rabbis and Laymen during a Half Century (1889-1938)

January 13, 1889

Rev. Edward N. Calisch offers to come and lecture to our congregation in English on Sunday afternoon or evening on alternate weeks and even pay his own expenses and does it for the benefit of Judaism. Accepted.

Members pledge themselves to attend services regularly. (Rabbi Calisch was ordained at the Hebrew Union College in 1887, served the congregation in Peoria until 1891, when he was called to Richmond, Va. where he served until his death in 1945.)

September 1891.

Leo M. Franklin, Senior Student at the Hebrew Union College where he was ordained the following May, officiated in the pulpit of Moses Montefiore Congregation for the High Holy Days. Mrs. Elsie Mandel Isenmann recalls him as dinner guest in the home of her father when she was a little girl. (Rabbi Franklin later served in Detroit, Michigan with distinction)

September, 1900.

Rabbi Simon Peiser officiated for the High Holy Days. Ordained in 1898, he became director of an orphanage in Cleveland. Tall, broad, mellow and soft-spoken, he commanded the respect of children.

1902 Miss Rose Livingston and Mr. Barnet Hubschman were married in the Temple by Rabbi Calisch.

1903 Miss Yetta Alexander and Mr. P. Rosenbaum married.

September 1904-1906

Rabbi Leo Mannheimer, ordained at the College in 1898, served the congregation for two years as its first regular rabbi. He came to Bloomington from Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he had officiated 1902-1904, and left Bloomington for Patterson, N.J. in September, 1906.

1905 Miss Cora Griesheim and Mr. Emanuel Heller married in Temple, Rabbi Mannheimer officiating.

1906 Miss Gussie Livingston and Mr. Sol Salzenstein married by Rabbi Mannheimer.

September 1907.

Abraham J. Messing began serving the congregation for one year. Ordained at the College in 1896, Rabbi Messing went to Peoria in September of that year for one year; then Montgomery, Ala. 1897-1904. He came to Bloomington in September 1907 to complete training for the law as a student at Illinois Wesleyan University. Entering I.W.U. with one year of Law school training obtained elsewhere, he completed the remaining three years of his course in two years, finishing in May 1909. During his stay in Bloomington, he impressed people with his oratory and brilliant mind.

1907 Miss Florence Griesheim and Mr. Milton Livingston married, Rabbi Messing officiating.

September 1908-1911

Rabbi G. George Fox, newly ordained at the College in May 1908, served at the South Shore Temple in Chicago, and came to Bloomington for the High Holy Days.

1911-1922

Oscar Mandel, layman, conducted services, occasionally would read an article or sermon written by others.

Sam Waldman, another member of the congregation, would alternate with Mr. Mandel in the pulpit.

1922-1925

Rabbi Seymour J. Bottigheimer (Hebrew Union College 1895) came from Peoria on Sundays.

1926-1929

Rabbi Bernard Dorfman (Hebrew Union College 1926) came from Peoria on Sunday mornings to conduct religious school.

1929 Miss Helene Griesheim and Mr. Jerome Nathan of Chicago married by Rabbi Louis L. Mann of Chicago in Bloomington.

December 1929

Dr. Benjamin Markowitz lay reader.

Mrs. Herbert (Hannah Ochs) Livingston superintendent of the religious school.

September 1930-May 1931

Frederic A. Doppelt of Fort Wayne, Ind., Senior Student at H.U.C. served bi-weekly, conducting Sabbath services on Friday evenings, religious school on Sunday mornings.

October 7, 1931

Board determines to invite 6-7 guest rabbis for Friday evening services.

September 1932-May 1933.

David J. Seligson, Senior Student at H.U.C. served bi-weekly.

Winter 1933-34.

Dr. Abram L. Sachar, instructor in History at the University of Illinois, Champaign, and Director of Hillel Foundation (organization of Jewish students on college campus) lectured: engaged to address congregation one Friday evening a month for eight months.

Winter 1935-36.

Dr. Sachar gives 8 consecutive lectures on Friday evenings.

September 1935

Dr. L. Elliot Grafman (ordained rabbi H.U.C. 1924) at this time living in Chicago, called to officiate for Holy Days.

1930-1938

During these depression years the financial position of the congregation presented serious problems, and the congregation just managed to keep its organization intact.

5. Full Time Rabbis.

September 1938-1940

Rabbi Samuel D. Hurwitz (H.U.C. 1929) served the congregation for two years. He came from Balboa, Panama to Bloomington, then to Benton Harbor, Mich. Later to position of Hillel Director at University of Washington in Seattle. During World War II he served as Chaplain in the United States Army, killed in service in Texas in 1943.

January 1940

Myron S. Oppenheimer Memorial Library established.

September 1940-41

Rabbi Herbert J. Winer of Rochester, N.Y. (ordained at Jewish Institute of Religion, New York in May 1940) served Moses Montefiore for one year as his first pulpit. Then to Jacksonville, Florida. Later a chaplain.

September 1941-42

Rabbi Melvin Sands (H.U.C. 1940) served Bloomington one year, left to enter chaplaincy,

September 1942-48

Rabbi Ulrich B. Steuer, ordained in Germany, served Fredericksburg, Va. 1938-1942 after coming to U.S. as refugee. While in Bloomington he attended classes at University of Illinois, studying Sociology, and later taught Sociology at Illinois Wesleyan University. Left Bloomington for Hammond, Ind.

September 1948

Mr. David Greenberger, Chicago attorney, at one time a student for the rabbinate, officiated for Holy Days. Laymen conducted services on Friday evenings.

January 5, 1949

Rabbi Louis A. Josephson (H.U.C. 1937) came to Bloomington from Fairmont, W.Va.

RECENT OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION

President:

1931	Julius Griesheim
1932	Sam Waldman
1933	"
1934	Harold Livingston
1935	"
1936	"
1937	Herman Bachenheimer
1938	William Tick
1939	Dr. Ben Markowitz
1940	Jake Lutz
1941	"
1942	David Stern
1943	"
1944	Charles Bernstein
1945	"
1946	"
1947	"
1948	Maurice Stern
1949	"
1950	"

Secretary:

Dr. B. Markowitz
"
"
"
"
"
"
"
Carl Marcus
"
Goldie Lutz
Mrs. Louis Urdangen
"
"
"
"
Devorah Seltzer
Blanche Lurie
"
"

RABBI LOUIS A. JOSEPHSON

BIOGRAPHY

Born in Philadelphia in 1910, he attended Philadelphia public schools and high schools.

In September 1929 he entered the Hebrew Union College and the University of Cincinnati, in Cincinnati, Ohio, studying jointly at the two institutions to receive his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1934, Bachelor of Hebrew from the Hebrew Union College in 1933, and ordained Rabbi at Hebrew Union College in 1937.

During the next three summers he occupied the pulpit of Temple Judea in Philadelphia, while serving the South Fountain Avenue Temple in Springfield, Ohio. Also served congregations in Cleveland, Miss., Erie, Pa., and Fairmont, W. Va. before coming to Bloomington in January 1949.

In December 1937 he married Eleanor L. Spitzer of Philadelphia. Two daughters, Johanna aged 9 and Cammine aged 7 were born in Cleveland, Miss.

Member of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and its Committee on Religious Education. Member of B'nai B'rith and Secretary of Abraham Lincoln Lodge #1133 in Bloomington. Secretary of Jewish Consolidated Charities of Bloomington. Member Bloomington Ministerial Association.

Formerly a member of the Springfield Lions Club, he has been active in the Kiwanis Club in Fairmont and Bloomington.

Formerly Counselor of the Hillel Foundation at the University of Mississippi, he is now Counselor of the Hillel Foundation at the Illinois State Normal University and Illinois Wesleyan University.

Also Chaplain at Illinois State Penitentiary at Pontiac, Illinois State Reformatory for Women at Dwight, and Veterans' Administration Hospital at Dwight.

A Commissioner in the Boy Scouts of America.

Special interest in promoting interfaith understanding through work on the radio and in addressing clubs, organizations, and student groups.

EARLY CHURCHES OF BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL

by

ROY RAMSEYER

EARLY CHURCHES OF BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Given before the Longfellow Club

January 14, 1947

Bloomington began with the construction of the first log cabin in 1827 along the northern edge of the Blooming Grove timber, near what is now the corner of Main and Olive. The Original Town of Bloomington, laid out in 1831 by James Allin was bounded by what are now known as Monroe, East, Front and Roosevelt Streets. Normal of course grew up around the Normal School building which was completed in 1860.

Quoting an historian of that era, "It is the opinion of many of our pioneers that no class of men deserves more credit for the settling up and development of McLean County than do the ministers of the Gospel. A few pioneer preachers, mostly of the Methodist denomination, visited the families of the first settlers and ministered to the religious needs of most of the scattered pioneers."

But there were also laymen whose influence was noteworthy. I quote Dr. E. K. Strong, formerly pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, as he speaks of the pioneer Methodist layman, John Hendrix, "You and I can never appreciate at its full value the blessing to all this region of the presence of such a man. It is as true of communities as of children that the first moral influences have much to do in shaping the future life for good or ill. The moral bias, the religious tendency of this community, therefore, is largely due to him and to those of like character who immediately followed him."

During its first eighteen or twenty years this community was thinly settled. There were few occasions to bring the people together. There were no buildings in which public meetings could be held. Though they were too small for meetings of any size, for a number of years some religious services were held in private log cabins. A few scattered preachers and exhorters were about the only public speakers.

The early pioneers being energetic, progressive and of a social, moral and religious nature, they conceived the idea of holding camp meetings. These meetings served a social as well as a religious purpose. They were usually held during the latter part of August and thruout September. Everyone from far and near looked forward to camp meeting time. Only those who had to stay at home to do chores or who were confined to their homes by illness stayed at home.

Camp meetings were usually planned to continue for two weeks. Extensions beyond that time customarily depended upon the interest manifested. At times meetings went on for

three, four, five and even six weeks. These meetings did much good socially, morally, politically and religiously. Many a wayward soul was brought into the Church and the good influences of the camp meeting contributed much to the well being of the community.

Families living at a distance took along provisions and feed to last them while in camp. Some drove horses. Others used oxen. Frequently young men came fifty and sixty miles on horse back to stay as long as the meeting lasted. They turned their horses into some pasture nearby. In the matter of board and lodging they knew that all who had no camping out fit were welcome and were entertained without charge by others of the campers.

Much of my information about camp meetings is obtained from a paper on Early Camp Meetings presented before the McLean County Historical Society by J. B. Orendorf. These meetings so influenced this community that I quote at length, "The first camp meetings of McLean County were of a backwoods style. After the place was selected for encampment, they then arranged seats by chopping down tall, slim trees to make long logs that they placed in rows six or eight feet apart. The seats were made by splitting puncheons eight or ten feet long, then placing them across the logs so the audience would face the speaker. The logs were so heavy they were usually hauled in by hitching three or four yoke of oxen to a lizard. The place selected for a meeting was always in a nice, shady grove, and usually close to a good spring of water. The preachers' platform was made of round logs, floored with puncheons. The platform was called a pulpit. Between the pulpit and the audience was an open space sixteen or eighteen feet square that was enclosed by pinning shaved poles to trees and posts, except a small passage way from the audience to the pulpit. This enclosure was called the altar, to which the preacher descended after preaching a sermon. He then called for mourners, as they were then called. After exhorting his hearers a short time to flee from the wrath to come, he called on all church members to come to the altar to help sing and pray. While singing and praying, at intervals, the preacher would appeal again and again to all to come to the anxious seat that was so inviting to the wayward.

"Temporary movable benches were placed inside the altar so that they could be moved at time of shouting. All those inside the altar would get on their knees at time of prayer. Then all would rise to their feet and all sing that could sing. The singing was not confined to the altar, as the audience joined in the chorus, too, several hundred

voices singing as loud as they could sing. All seemed to be trying to see who could sing the loudest. - - - - -

"While the singing was going on, there was a gradual advance to the altar of those that were seeking religion. - - - - - The audience was melted to tears, while in the altar they were crying, singing, praying and shouting, - all going on at the same time. - - - - -

"Occasionally, this exercise was kept up until three or four o'clock next morning. They would keep singing and praying until they became exhausted. A few while shouting, would fall to the earth as though they were struck by death. In some cases they remained in that condition for hours. They seemed to be in a trance. For hours they lay as dead, unconscious to all surroundings, not a muscle seemed to move until they began to come to; then they would gradually revive, similar to recovering from a spasm or fit.

"At one of these meetings I saw a young couple of lovers go in the altar as seekers of religion; after kneeling in prayer quite a time, they sprang to their feet and commenced to shout. After shouting a while, they came together. While clasped in each others arms some time, they said, with shouts, as they were shouting all the time, they were going to heaven, and were going together now. They took hold of a small oak sapling and attempted to climb it, but it was too slender to stand their weight. After a few attempts they gave it up, but still kept on shouting at least two hours, until they became too exhausted to shout any longer. They soon after married and became our most respected citizens. They are now dead. I never doubted their religious sincerity, as they ever after lived devoted lives."

The first camp meeting held in McLean County was conducted in Blooming Grove in 1829 by the Methodists under the direction of James Latta, Peter Cartwright, William See and Stephen Beggs. The first circuit preacher in McLean County was the Rev. William See in 1826, followed by the Reverends Smith Robinson, James Latta and Stephen Beggs in 1827, 1828 and 1828 respectively. The Rev. Ebenezer Rhodes originally of the sect variously known as the Free Will Baptist, Separate Baptist or New Light Church, but afterward of the Christian denomination, came in 1824. Mr. Orendorf credits Rhodes with having organized the first church ever organized in this county, at his home, in 1828. Cumberland Presbyterian ministers preached in the area as early as 1824. One of these the Rev. John Berry, lived at New Salem, a neighbor of Peter Cartwright and Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Orendorf maintains that, "John Berry was equal to Peter Cartwright, - I think

the greater man of the two. He never got the notoriety that Cartwright had, as he never mingled in politics like Cartwright."

Mr. A. C. Washburne, a pioneer teacher and prominent layman of the early days reports on his attendance at a Methodist Camp Meeting in 1831. The preachers were more remarkable for force than for elegance. One of the speakers enjoining his auditors against certain offences, said, "To be a liar is to act the part of a poor, mean, black devil, and for one to be a devil is degrading." Another cautioned parents to do something about their children and I quote, "How sportive they are in vice, and you often laugh instead of weep; the devil has got your children, the fiend of hell has got them and is leading them captive at his will and you smile." The next day Mr. Latta declared, "There is a certain class of people who cannot go to hell fast enough on foot, so they must get their poor, mean pony and go to the horse race! Even professors of religion are not guiltless in this respect, but go under the pretense that they want to see such or such a man, but they know in their own hearts that they want to see the horse race." When Mr. Latta had finished one man jumped up and said he was light as a feather. Another clapped his hands and went around shaking hands with everyone. Some laughed, some cried, and some shouted. The Rev. Peter Cartwright then arose and became peculiarly severe on Eastern men (Washburne was an Easterner) because of their low opinion of Western intellect and Western character. He said, "They represent this country as being a waste, and people as being ignorant, but if I was going to shoot a fool I would not aim at a Western man, but would go down to the sea-shore and cock my fussee at the imps who live on oysters." But his sermon had a great effect and he concluded by giving a description of the glories of heaven. When he finished, some people fell down, some screamed, the children were frightened, and Mr. Washburn says that he never before heard such noise and saw such confusion.

Mr. Orendorf described the general arrangement of the camps and provisions made for cooking, "The camps were built in a circle around the seats and altar. They were placed end to end like a train of cars, leaving space between each cabin so as to give pass way. Each cabin had a door to face the seats and speakers stand. They usually had one door; occasionally two. They had no floors, no chimney, no fires inside. Then stoves were unknown here. The only window light was a greased paper which some used. - - - - -

"The cooking was all done back of the camps by building a fire against a large log that held fire several

days. The cooking utensils used then were a tea kettle, coffee pot, frying pan, skillet. One or two ovens, wooden dish bowl and wooden bread tray; that was the housewife's outfit to prepare a meal."

With the arrival of saw mills there was some improvement in seats, pulpits and camps. A few even had canvas tents, but there was little change made in cooking. The early forties was a remarkable period for camp meetings. They were held in almost every neighborhood. Later they gradually disappeared.

Some accounts credit the Rev. James Stringfield from Kentucky, a Methodist, with having preached the first sermon in Blooming Grove. This was in 1823 at the home of John Hendrix, eight years before Bloomington was laid out. Others assign the honor to Ebenezer Rhodes of not only having first preached in Blooming Grove, but also of having preached the first sermon in McLean County. There seems to be no question but that Rhodes performed the first marriage ceremony in the county.

In 1824 what was known as "a class" was formed at the home of John Hendrix in Blooming Grove. It was composed of Hendrix and wife, Mrs. John W. Dawson, Severe Stringfield, A. M. Stringfield and Elizabeth Randolph. This was the beginning of the present First Methodist Church of this city. For more than seven years, from 1824 to the spring of 1832 they continued to meet at the Hendrix home. From 1832 to 1836 the group worshiped in the little frame Court House in Bloomington. Preaching was every four weeks.

In 1836 a very plain Church building was erected at the Southwest corner of the intersection of Main and Olive on the lot now occupied by the Sampson Oil Company. Its dimensions were 32x44 feet and the cost \$900. The Rev. Zadoc Hall, then on the circuit, was largely instrumental in building the church. He built it principally with his own hands and it was the first church building Bloomington had. He took the contract himself, supervised the work, collected the subscriptions and in August, 1836 dedicated the church, clear of debt - and, he cleared seventy-five cents on the contract! This is believed to be the first comfortable house of worship between Springfield and Chicago. Here the society worshiped for fifteen years, or until 1851.

They were a plain and unpretending group. Methods were primitive. Meetings were called by a bell. Men and women sat apart. No one dared to pass the line of demarcation. The people came in wagons, sometimes drawn by oxen. All dressed plainly. Gold and costly apparel were absent. The discipline interdicted it. The preachers declaimed against it. Fasts on Fridays before the quarterly meeting were enjoined.

A sentinel was always placed at the love feast door. There were no doctors of divinity. No music or choirs. The preacher first read the hymn. Then he gave out two lines at a time. All knelt to pray. A Methodist who did not attend class meeting would have been thought no Methodist at all in those days. Babies were brought along to church. A preacher who could not drown the voice of a crying infant would have been thought a poor excuse as a preacher. Shoutings were occasional with the Amens frequent, sharp and well defined.

On August 10, 1851 a larger and newly constructed church was dedicated at the Southwest corner of the intersection of Washington and East where the Majestic Theater now stands. It measured 44x70 feet and cost \$7838. Here the Methodists worshiped for twenty-four years or until 1874. This building was later known as the Leader Building or Washington Hall.

Great changes now began to take place in the country at large, in the town, and in the congregation. Railroads were coming to the town. The prairies were filling up. Bloomington became a city. The Methodists were no longer the primitive congregation of the olden days. Men and women sat together and both seemed to like it. Baskets instead of hats were used to take up the collection. Doctors of divinity were being manufactured in large numbers. People now rode to church in carriages. Babies were left at home. Sermons of not more than forty minutes took the place of the old two hour discourses. The fast before the quarterly meeting had become obsolete. The Bible was no more pounded to make truth more emphatic. Members began to sit in their seats during prayer. Times had changed.

For how would Zadoc Hall's parishioners have felt to have walked into the new \$60,000 building which in 1875 became the home of the First Methodist Episcopal Church? "This magnificent church edifice, as it now stands completed," according to then current reports "is one of the beauties of Bloomington; it is a model of architectural symmetry and beauty." Try to imagine if you will how this imposing structure stood out in 1875 in a town of 15,000. And of all things, they "purchased and placed in position an immense organ - - the largest in the state, outside of Chicago." Need I add that this is the present First Methodist Church building?

On October 7, 1867 a group interested in founding a Methodist church in the north part of Bloomington met and organized the University Methodist Episcopal Church. The original group included 100 members representing 30 families.

Services were first held in the Chapel of Old North Hall on the Illinois Wesleyan Campus. Subsequently services were held in Amie Chapel. In 1879 the group moved to the former North Presbyterian Church located on Locust Street just across the alley west from the present Grace Church location. Within a few years, the congregation outgrew these quarters. On Oct. 1, 1880 its name was changed to Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1888 the lot at the northwest corner of Locust and East Streets was purchased and the main part of the present building erected. In 1909 under the leadership of the Rev. Merle N. English, the addition to the north was built.

The African (colored) Methodist Church on North Center Street was established in 1847. Salem (German) Methodist Church was organized in 1854. The latter group first worshiped in the school house at the corner of Monroe and Oak. Later a church was built on North Center between Monroe and Market. The present building at Washington and Roosevelt was erected in 1885.

Park Methodist Church was built in 1906 with the Rev. Jesse S. Dancey as its first pastor.

Mr. A. C. Washburne, to whom reference has previously been made, reports that on July 27, 28 and 29, 1832 three sermons were preached in the village by a Presbyterian minister, whose name he could not recall. "This, so far as I know," he writes, "was the first Presbyterian minister who visited Bloomington." On December 1, 1832 he adds, "A gentleman called at my house and introduced himself as Calvin W. Babbitt. - - - I had a pleasant and interesting conversation with him, from which I learned that he was sent out by the Home Missionary Society to look after feeble churches, and to organize new ones, where there was sufficient inducement." After additional meetings in private houses, in the school house, and in the Court House, Mr. Babbitt preached again in the school house at the corner of Main and Olive on Jan. 26, 1833. And here, following this service, Babbitt organized a church of eight members, as follows: Enoch Hunt, Amasa C. Washburne, Benjamin DePew, Margaret DePew, Robert Guthrie, Catharine Guthrie, Nancy Durley and Isabelle Michaels. This was the beginning of the present First Presbyterian Church, second in age in this city only to the First Methodist Church.

Late in 1833 the Rev. Lemuel Foster came to Bloomington and established a school. He occupied a building on Olive Street where it corners with Main Street at the present site of the Dunlop Tire Shop. This building for

many years was used both as a school and as a church. The Court House was the next place of worship. Mr. William Glimpse, an elder, and later still an elder in Second Presbyterian Church, reports that each Saturday he sawed and wheeled to the Court House the wood necessary for church services for the following day.

What is now the First Presbyterian Church had no home of its own until 1846. It took title to the present lot on April 27 of that year. Though a church building was probably started shortly after, it was not completed until the winter of 1848. In fact the building was unfinished when first used. There were no pews, the congregation sitting on planks laid across blocks of wood. The building was about 60 feet long, 36 feet wide, and 35 feet to the ridge of the roof, fashioned after an Old Greek temple with entablature, and in front four columns after the Grecian Doric Style. A cross section was later added at the north end. The first pipe organ in Bloomington was purchased and installed in 1868 during the pastorate of the Rev. John McLean. The present building was erected in 1895.

What is now Second Presbyterian Church was organized on Monday, June 11, 1855, at a meeting held in Major's Hall, as the "New School Presbyterian Society." There is the general impression that the sole issue involved and the only reason for the new organization had to do with the Slavery question. This had its influence, but it was not the only issue.

Back of the division between the Old and New Schools lay the fact that during the latter part of the Eighteenth and the early part of the Nineteenth Centuries, thousands of people emigrated from the Atlantic Coast to new settlements in the West. Missionaries sent out by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church came into contact with Congregational ministers from Connecticut. The increasing numbers of churches needing ministration made it impossible for either church to supply the ministers needed. To help meet the need the Presbyterian General Assembly and the General Association of the Congregational Churches of Connecticut in 1801 agreed upon a Plan of Union for joint work in pioneer fields. Under this plan Congregational ministers might serve Presbyterian Churches without transfer of relationship. Representation of the General Association in the meetings of General Assembly was granted. Not less than five Congregational Associations became official parts of the Presbyterian Church.

But many felt that the "Plan of Union" resulted in much looseness of government and in doctrine. Newer synods in the Presbyterian Church became more and more Congregational

in Church government, insomuch that it was nicknamed the Presbygational Church. A division in the Presbyterian Church resulted. The Old School advocated the abrogation of the "Plan of Union" and the establishment of denominational agencies. The New School opposed both these policies. The New School had the majority in the General Assembly of 1836. This alarmed the Old School and in 1837 they had the majority in the Assembly. Resolutions were passed declaring the "Plan of Union" with the Congregationalists unconstitutional, abrogating the plan, and declaring all that was done under it null and void. Each group became a separate and distinct denomination.

The local Presbyterian Church, now the First Presbyterian Church, promptly attached itself to the New School organization. So it continued until 1848 when with the consent of Presbytery it withdrew and attached itself to the Old School.

I quote from the minutes of the first and organization meeting of the New School Presbyterian Society, "From several incidental meetings and conferences between several members of the 1st Presbyterian Church (O.S.) and of the Congregational Church of Bloomington, it was believed the time had fully come in the Providence of God - the necessities of the rapidly growing population of this city and the elements in readiness for the enterprise - for the organization of a Constitutional Presbyterian Church."

I quote again from Dr. Strong's Historical Discourse: "Soon after the organization, (First Pres. Ch.) the slavery question came into prominence. Bloomington lay on the border between the two great sections which favored and opposed slavery. In this church were gathered these two elements, and more than once the struggle became intense. It was the antislavery sentiment which led to the formation of the Congregational Church, which, according to the protest against such organization in the records of the Session, occurred in 1844. Our Church, however, continued to grow and thrive, until the congregation became too large for the home, and in 1855 fourteen drew out, and with twelve from the Congregational Church, and some others, organized the Second Presbyterian Church. This was a perfectly peaceful separation, and yet I have been informed that opposition to slavery had considerable influence in determining these persons to leave the parent." He comments also on the fact that the Rev. Alfred Eddy who was called as minister for the new organization preached at First Church "the Sunday afternoon preceding the organization of the Second Presbyterian Church." First Presbyterian Church is credited with being "the parent of Orthodox Congregationalism and Presbyterianism in Bloomington.

At least three different churches have sprung from this organization, though only one has become permanent."

To me it is of more than passing interest that this same A. C. Washburne, one of the organizers of and the first elder elected in the First Presbyterian Church in 1833, was one of the twelve who came by letter from the Congregational Church to organize this new group. On December 15, 1832 he organized the first temperance society in McLean County. In March of the same year he had participated in organizing the first Sunday School. On September 30, 1834 he was elected secretary of the McLean County Bible Society and agent for the purpose of distributing Bibles. In 1835 he was appointed the agent of the American Sunday School Union for Illinois, and worked to establish Sunday Schools all over the State. His daughter Mary Frances and her husband, John Hull, were both members of the first class graduated from Illinois State Normal University (1860). Prof. Hull attained high distinction as a teacher. He was principal of Bloomington High School. From 1869 to 1875 he was County Superintendent of Schools for McLean County. At the time of his retirement because of ill health, he was President of the Southern Illinois Normal School.

This new congregation, now Second Presbyterian Church, continued to meet in Major's Hall until about the time the building came to be used by the Illinois State Normal University, in the fall of 1857. The group commenced work on its new house of worship in 1856. It was finished in 1857 at its approximate present location. A contemporary issue of the Weekly Pantagraph describes it as "Byzantine or Romanesque architecture, built of brick. Its dimensions are 82x46 feet, exclusive of the projection for the tower. The audience room is 70x43 feet in the clear, with a gallery at the opposite end from the pulpit. There are 90 'slips' or pews. Five large windows light the building by day; a handsome gilt chandelier of 15 gas burners suspended from the center illuminates the place at night. The entire cost of the building is \$75,000."

Work on a new church building was commenced in 1895 and the present building was formally dedicated on December 13, 1896.

The North Presbyterian Church was organized April 26, 1875 but later ceased to act when as previously stated their house of worship was taken over by Grace Methodist.

The First Christian Church was organized on April 15, 1837 when a small group of friends assembled in the home of William T. Major at the southwest corner of East

and Front Streets. For three years this new organization continued to meet in the Major home. In 1840 a small wooden church was erected on the west side of East Street between Front and Grove, on the site of the present Hotel Rogers. Some dissension and strife developed within the group and in 1856 the larger part of the congregation withdrew and purchased the lot where the First Christian Church now stands. Here they built a new church at a cost of \$8000. Fortunately the two groups soon reunited and worshiped together at the new location. However, there were disagreements in the church as to instrumental music in church services. The majority favored music and a small organ was installed. Not long after, the church was entered at night and the organ thrown downstairs, a total wreck. But a new organ was purchased with apparently no further trouble.

First Christian Church continued to grow under various pastors until 1888 when the Rev. J. H. Gilliland was called. When he arrived the membership stood at 400; by the time he left 25 years later, it was 1500. He had taken 2500 persons into the church in that period. His twenty-five years until just recently continued a record for Bloomington. The present church edifice was erected early in Mr. Gilliland's pastorate and the building dedicated on September 7, 1890.

There came a day when Mr. Gilliland thought it desirable to form a new church in an unoccupied part of the city. Members of his congregation gave him little encouragement. However, he announced that he would open the books for the new membership. This he did and soon he had 271 names on the register.

A partial organization of Second Christian Church was effected January 20, 1901, with the following officers: Campbell Holton, Chairman; Miss Florence Denham, Secretary; Mrs. Sain Welty, Treasurer. The present building was dedicated November 23, 1903. Mr. Gilliland continued as pastor for eight years. By that time the membership had increased to 700.

Mr. Campbell Holton tells me that after a little while Mr. Gilliland confided to him that he had made a mistake in locating the new church, that it should have been placed east of the Illinois Central tracks. In due time he told his flock that it was best to divide the congregation and erect another church. This was done. Centennial Christian Church was erected and formally dedicated in 1909 with Mr. Gilliland as pastor. Mr. Holton informs me too that Mr. Gilliland in each instance when starting a church subscribed the first \$2000 toward its cost.

The First Baptist Church was organized on December 30, 1837 in a little upper room over a building at 107 East

Olive. The first house of worship was erected in 1838 at 307 W. Monroe Street, and dedicated early in 1839. Its second home was built in the spring of 1848 at 107 South Madison Street. Later a church was started at the corner of Madison and Jefferson, but it was not completed and dedicated until October 12, 1862, after more than six years of effort. The present building, erected early in Dr. John L. Jackson's first pastorate, was dedicated November 25, 1888.

Mt. Pisgah (colored) Baptist Church was started in 1866.

What is now the Unitarian Church was organized August 14, 1859 as the Free Congregational Church. Its present building was erected about the year 1866.

The organization of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church occurred on July 31, 1853. After having worshipped in different halls the parish, in 1865, purchased the old Congregational Church building at the corner of Roosevelt and Washington. The lot at the northwest corner of Prairie and Jefferson was purchased in July, 1874. The present building was erected in 1876 at an original cost of \$20,000. Various improvements and additions have since been added.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church, now Trinity Lutheran, was organized September 19, 1858. Meetings for some time were in a small rented hall. Attempts at buying or building met with failure. Except for a Mr. Ruff the congregation would probably have disbanded entirely. Commencing September, 1862 the old Christian Church building was rented and used for about six months. Then the congregation bought the building for \$250. and moved it onto the lot at the Northeast corner of Madison and Olive Streets, the site of its present church, which was dedicated June 14, 1885.

On December 7, 1872 a small band of Swedish settlers, Lutherans from the homeland, including 36 adults and 10 children, met and organized the Swedish Evangelical Church, now First English Evangelical Lutheran Church. Unable to build, services were held for three years in the Fleckman School house, on West, now Roosevelt, and for another year in a hall in the Peoples Bank building. In 1877 the congregation purchased and built on its Olive Street site. This first building was removed and the present beautiful building erected in 1928.

While the Presbyterian churches have largely been the home of that large element known as Orthodox Congregationalists, there was a time when a flourishing church of that denomination

was in existence. As early as 1842, the Congregationalists had built a church at the corner of Washington and Madison Streets. From then until 1860 they were quite strong in the city. A new church home was built at the northeast corner of West, now Roosevelt, and Washington. Later when the hard times struck they were unable to meet payments on their mortgage. Hence the reason for selling to the Episcopalians in 1865. The Congregationalists reorganized in 1873 and worshiped in a public hall, but after two years they again abandoned the undertaking. Just when they again began to function as a Church I am not able to say, but the corner stone of the church building belonging to the Congregationalists at the time of their merger with Second Presbyterian Church carries the dates 1847-1908 - the former indicating of course the date of organization and the latter the time the building was erected.

The Daily Pantagraph of January 1, 1928, the effective date of the merger, states that the Congregational Church here was organized by a group of six abolitionists who pulled away from the Presbyterian Church because of the policy of that Church to keep the discussion of slavery from the pulpit and who organized the new church as a protest to that policy. And here I quote, "The two churches, both originally formed as a protest to slavery and from the same congregation, became united in another common cause, that of community service." On January 30, 1928 one hundred twenty-four persons, the membership of the First Congregational Church, were formally received into the membership of Second Presbyterian Church.

The Universalists for a time had a church building on East Front Street and numbered among their members some of the city's most prominent citizens. But many of its members went into the Free Congregational Church. Others went to other churches of the city. As a result the church discontinued.

The Reformed Presbyterians also had a church on East Front. For various reasons this church also closed. The Free Will Baptists, too, early disappeared from the list of churches. The early United Brethren largely united with other churches.

The First United Brethren Church was organized September 14, 1911. Their present church was dedicated December 15, 1912. Second United Brethren met and organized in the Fred Riser home on South Bunn Street on February 10, 1908. For some time they worshiped as the South Bunn Street Mission in the 800 block on South Bunn. Their original building was enlarged and on May 10, 1914 rededicated.

The Moses Montifiore organization began functioning in 1882. The present temple was dedicated May 30, 1889.

The Christian Science Church building was erected in 1908.

On Nov. 5, 1853 the Rev. Bernard O'Hara arrived in Bloomington and inaugurated the first regular Roman Catholic services held in the city, at the home of Mr. William O'Brien. Here Mass was celebrated a few times. The old Court House was next engaged for services. The old Methodist Church at Olive and Main was purchased on Nov. 11, 1853 for \$1600 and services were held there for some years. Under Father Kennedy, who came to Bloomington Sept. 15, 1859, the present site, being the block bounded by Chestnut, Main, Locust and Center, was purchased. In 1868-9 a beautiful church was erected facing South on Locust where the parochial residence now stands. But it was destroyed by a cyclone on April 18, 1868 before any services had been held in it. Nothing was left standing but the tower. Father O'Gara, then pastor, called his parishioners together to make plans to rebuild. Not meeting with full support, he commented that "When the general calls the troops, and they fail to respond, the battle is lost," and resigned. Later repeated attempts to rebuild also ended in failure. The old church at Main and Olive having been sold under the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. McGovern, the congregation was left without a home. Phoenix Hall was rented and services held there. Father Weldon came to the parish July 2, 1879 and found the church still unfinished. It was completed under his wise and capable leadership and stood until destroyed by fire on March 8, 1932. The present church was then built.

The German Catholics of Bloomington met to form a church in 1852. In 1869 a small church was built. The present building, St. Mary's, at Jackson and Mason Streets was erected in 1885.

St. Patrick's Parish was organized in 1892, taking its members from the west end of Holy Trinity Parish. Father J. J. Burke was put in charge and the present edifice was dedicated July 11, 1893.

The residents of Normal attended various churches in Bloomington until several years after the village had been started. The first religious services in the village were held in the University building during the winter of 1860-1, the first year of its occupancy. Different Bloomington

pastors conducted union services. This seems to have proved satisfactory until the village had grown sufficiently to warrant the organization of churches.

The Congregationalists and Methodists first took steps to organize, followed soon after by the Baptists, Presbyterians and Christians. The Congregational Church was organized some time in the spring of 1865. Services for some time were held in the University building. The first church building dedicated June 23, 1867 was destroyed by fire on May 30, 1873. On September 12, 1879 a second structure was dedicated.

On the evening of September 5, 1865 a small group of Normal residents gathered at the home of A. C. Mason on North Street and took the initial steps to organize the Normal Methodist Church. At the Session of the Illinois Conference held in Decatur September 20, 1865 Normal and Twin Grove were merged in a circuit. The Rev. C. D. James, father of Edmund J. James, who later became President of Northwestern and later of Illinois University, was chosen as the first pastor. The present church building was dedicated January 7, 1868.

The First Baptist Church of Normal was organized July 13, 1866. Twenty-three of its members were set off to it by the First Baptist Church of Bloomington. The present building was erected in 1873.

The Presbyterian Church was organized July 12, 1868 at a meeting held in the basement of the Normal M. E. Church with only 11 members. A church building erected on the corner of Linden and Cherry Streets was dedicated February 17, 1872. The Rev. Henry R. Peairs, father of Dr. Ralph Peairs, and pastor from 1882 to 1885, felt that this location was too far from the center of activities and particularly the University. Under his direction a site was purchased and a new church built on Ash Street on what is now a part of the Central School grounds. The Rev. Henry Abraham, father of Miss Elizabeth Abraham, came to Normal in 1910. He accepted the call with the understanding that the congregations of the Presbyterian and Congregational churches would merge. The merger took place on June 26, 1910. On October 30, 1910 the group composed of the union of the two former congregations moved to the Congregational Church building, standing where the Presbyterian Church now is. The former Presbyterian grounds were sold to the Normal School Board in 1911. The

present building erected at a cost of \$26,000.00 was dedicated September 20, 1914.

The Christian Church was organized in April, 1873 with only about 20 members. A church building was erected in 1873. Prior to the erection of the present building in 1912 the Christian Church was located at the Southeast corner of Ash and Broadway, the site now of the Masonic Temple.

The organization of the First Mennonite Church in 1910, insofar as this paper is concerned, is primarily of interest in that it shows a trend. Commencing with the leadership of the Rev. Jonathan Yoder at about the midpoint of the Nineteenth Century the Mennonites had developed considerable strength, principally in Danvers and Dry Grove Townships. Their outstanding leader and organizer was the Rev. Joseph Stuckey, grandfather of Lyle Stuckey of Danvers and Mrs. R. H. Norton of Normal. He was affectionately known to his followers as Father Stuckey. The Normal church was the first urban church to be organized in the Conference. The early Mennonites in these parts were farmers. However, a number of families from the East White Oak and other neighboring congregations had moved to Bloomington and Normal. The first pastor was the Rev. Peter Schantz, previously pastor of the East White Oak Church. Services were first held in an upper room over a store building. The present building was dedicated July 2, 1911.

Reference has previously been made to the first Sabbath School organized March 8th and 9th 1832 at the School house where A. C. Washburne was teaching. It was non-sectarian. The appointment of Washburne, a Presbyterian, as superintendent, was in fact made by the Rev. James Latta, a Methodist. But there was marked opposition to the Sunday School. A learned doctor was loud in his declaration that it was simply a measure to unite church and state. Mr. Washburne actively solicited children's attendance. One mother on whom he called asked, "How much do you charge for tuition?" When he answered that the school was entirely free she replied, "I don't understand why you should leave your friends and come way out here to the West, a thousand miles or more, to teach my children for nothing." Then he spoke to her of benevolence and good will, and how anxious he was for the spread of the Gospel, and thought her heart was touched when she suddenly turned and asked, "Ain't you a 'cold water' man?" He acknowledged his principles and admitted that he was a temperance man. Hearing this the

woman boiled over with rage and said her children should never go to Sunday School to any such man. That ended the interview.

In 1839 the Methodists organized a denominational school. This took away large numbers from what had been the union school, the Mr. Washburne concedes that it had been "managed mostly by Presbyterians." From this time the organization took on a denominational character. The various churches had their own schools.

A quotation from "Pen Pictures of the First M. E. Sunday School, Bloomington, Illinois" by Miss Sallie Porter will indicate something as to lesson materials and subject matter. A class of twelve year old boys is studying Paul, not from the Bible, but from a Question Book. The lesson reads as follows:

"Question - What is said of Paul as a writer?

"Answer - He was a most comprehensive, argumentative and vigorous writer; yet he wrote with kindness and dignity. He could exhort, reprove, or console the churches to whom his epistles were addressed, with equal ability. There is the greatest strength of argument in his writings, and no one could resist the earnestness with which he addressed the churches.

"Question - What were the distinguishing traits of Paul's character?

"Answer - He was a man of exalted genius and one of the best orators; he was distinguished also for his great zeal and extensive learning, but most of all for the love he manifested for the Salvation of Souls."

Their song book included such selections as "There is a Happy Land", "I want to be an Angel" and from another I quote:

"In the winter when 'tis mild,
We must run but not be wild;
But in summer we must walk,
And improve the time by talk.
Thus we may come nice and cool
For our much loved infant school."

Reporting to the quarterly conference in 1876 at the end of his twenty-fifth year as superintendent, Judge McClun concludes, "Many have died and gone to heaven, who have been members of this Sunday School and many more are on their way, and the reunion of this dear school in the heavenly world is a most glorious and triumphant thought. May God continue to bless this dear old Sunday School."

The pioneers are no longer here to speak for themselves, but laymen such as Hendrix, Washburne and Major, Lemuel Foster, the Presbyterian minister who maintained "The Seminary", the Rev. R. Conover, another Presbyterian, who conducted Bloomington Female Seminary, William T. Major, who established the Female Seminary of the Christian denomination and many others, ministers and laymen, of the olden day, some have been named in this paper but more have not been, very definitely have given character to this community. Time forbids discussing their many other contributions to community life, but their works speak for them.

ROY A RAMSEYER

Biographical Sketch

Born and reared on farm in McLean County, first 12 years in Dry Grove Township, subsequently in Hudson Township.

Graduated from I. S. N. U. in 1912.

Graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University, A.B., in 1915, L.L.B. in 1916.

Taught country school one year in White Oak Township., McLean County. Principal of Wellington Schools (Iroquois County, Illinois), teaching 2 year high school subjects, one year.

Taught in Bloomington Law School, connected with Illinois Wesleyan University, during last four years of its existence.

Practiced law in Bloomington since 1916 except for time spent in Army during World War I.

CHURCH CHOIRS OF BLOOMINGTON

by

Ruth Bodell Ramseyer

What we have, including religious songs, can be grouped in
three groups, as well as everything else, as to style of song,
time.

The church used to have choruses and at the same time had some
singing. It often had some of the same choruses because the choruses
of the past were all good. Following was often some singing
or substituted for some other for which it was not good
and without plan. In special occasions the church had
lined to have a really glorious choir. At such times as were:

"Joy Myriad's Love"
"Gloria" - from Twelfth Mass
"Vivamus" - the choir
"Inflammas" - from Twelfth Mass
"The Heavens are Telling" - a hymn
"Gloria" - the choir's song

and many other magnificent and inspiring anthems.

CHURCH CHOIRS OF BLOOMINGTON

By

Ruth Bodell Ramseyer

Probably no grand-stand seat in the world can compare with
a choir in a church choir-loft, for from that vantage point
you observe the human race at its best. The romances, comed-
ies and tragedies of the members of your congregation are all
yours too. I remember one instance when all three - romance,
comedy and tragedy were staged in one family pew. A young
son, for the first time, brought a girl to sit with his
family. His father was greatly amused, but I shall never for-
get the tragic look on his mother's face. She confided to me
afterward that she hadn't heard one word of the sermon! When
you have sung in one church for an extended period you see
the youngsters grow up, marry and found family pews of their own,
and the sweet saints of the congregation grow old and dis-
appear from their accustomed places.

The choirs of the different churches of our community in
the early nineteen-hundreds were mostly chorus choirs. Then
followed professional soloists with the choruses, and about
1915-1920, the choruses (or volunteer choirs, as they were
called), disbanded and were replaced by quartets, each member
being a soloist, also.

Around 1940, the junior choirs swept the country and are still
enjoying a great popularity. Although quartet choirs are again
being heard in many churches, in many instances with choruses as
background. This seems to me to be the perfect organization,

since so many outstanding religious works can be presented. Church choirs, as well as everything else, go in cycles or fashions.

The music used in our churches was of the same style and composer, - often they were the same numbers because the members of the quartets were all good friends and often sang together or substituted for each other for union services and passed good anthems along. On special occasions the quartets combined to make a really glorious choir. At such times we used:

"By Babylon's Wave"
"Gloria"- from Twelfth Mass
"Fling Wide the Gates"
"Inflamatus" from Stabat Mater
"The Heavens Are Telling" - Haydn
"Sanctus" - St. Cecilia's Mass

and many other magnificent and inspiring anthems.

I think no other figure in church music has been as well-known or as well-loved as Mrs. James Reeder, who for forty-five years was organist at the Second Presbyterian Church. It was a privilege to be associated with her there for twenty-five years and I have never seen her ruffled, out of patience or dismayed by any emergency, - and what choir doesn't have their share of them? Mrs. Reeder, who is always alert and tiptoe with everything new in music, subscribed to the New York Times and read what the New York choirs were singing. She then ordered the same things for us and often the folks on East Street were listening to the same music as the congregations on Fifth Avenue. That is why we sang so many new and lovely publications which were unfamiliar in Bloomington. Last winter I attended the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church while in New York, and knowing that two of their quartet were Metropolitan opera voices I looked forward to something really new and breathtaking. To my surprise they rose and sang "Seek Ye the Lord" which was one of our favorite anthems, as well as the congregations. We used many beautiful compositions by composers of different periods, from the ancient and traditional music of Palestrina and the Gregorian chants down to the new music publications of today. We "fed" our congregation quite a little Bach from time to time, using many of the beautiful Bach chorales which became favorites of us all. We took advantage of the "modern trend" and sang compositions by Noble Cain, Roberta Bitgood, Stevenson and such songs as "Seek Him That Maketh the Seven Stars," - Rogers, "Behold, the Master Passeth By" - Stevenson, and the "Beatitudes" - Malotte. Some of our beautiful devotional selections were "Sweet Hour of Prayer" - Havens, "God is a Spirit" - Bennett, "Thou Art, O God, My Life and Light", - Mozart, "God So Loved the World" - Stainer, "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" - Shelley, "Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord" from "Elijah", - Mendelssohn.

A partial list of other anthems which are most singable and valuable in a service are--

Festival Te Deum - Buck
Christian, The Morn Breaks Sweetly O'er Thee - Shelley.
Saviour, When Night Involves the Skies - Shelley
The Lost Sheep - Jules Jordan
The Woods and Every Sweet Smelling Tree - West
Prayer For Our Country - Voris (Words by George Washington)
Earth and Heaven - Mercadante
The Greatest of These Is Love - Bitgood
The Shadows of the Evening Hours - Barri
Sing Allelulia Forth - Buck
Be Still! Be Still, - Scott
Venite Exultenuis Deo - Havens
Build Thee More Stately Mansions - Andrews
I Will Magnify Thee - Rogers
Christmas Bells - Stevenson
Still, Still With Thee - Foote
O Saving Victim - Tours
Te Deum in B^b - Buck
Art Thou Weary? - Chadwick
Pierce Was the Wild Billow - Tertius Noble
A Carol From Lapland - Stevenson
Shepherds' Christmas Song - Austrian Folksong
Cherubim Song - Bortnyanski
Glorious Forever - Rachmaninoff
Ring out, Wild Bells - Gounod
Ho! Everyone That Thirsteth - Martin
Fear Not Ye, O Israel - Spicker
He Sendeth the Springs - Wareing
Prayer from Hansel and Gretel - Humperdinck
He That Hath Pity - Stevenson
Gloria In Excelsis - Mozart
Hark! What mean Those Holy Voices? - Kennedy
Praise Ye The Name of the Lord - Ivanhoff
The First Psalm - LaForge
We May Not Climb The Heavenly Steeps - Hosmer
Twilight and Dawn - Speaks
Thou Crownest the Year - Maker
The Silent Sea - Neidlinger

The gorgeous music of many of the oratorios we sang on occasion, too, in their entirety or in part--

"The Seasons" - Haydn
"Stabat Mater" - Rossini
"The Seven Last Words" - the Mercadante work and the
Dubois, also
"Elijah" - Mendelssohn
"The Messiah" - Handel

It isn't often that a congregation boasts a composer among its members who has had as many good songs published as has Miss Frances Kessler. Her sister, Miss Louise, writes the

lyrics, and it was my privilege on several occasions to use one of their sacred solos.

At Christmas and Easter there were numerous cantati used in all the churches, many being so well-written as to approach oratorio. This furnishes a cross-section of the music which was sung in our Protestant churches. The three Catholic churches, of course, used their many beautiful masses. The music at Moses Montefiore Temple is based on, or built around the traditional Hebrew melodies. The greater part of this music is in minor key, as songs of a persecuted and repressed people would be, but they have a touching beauty that really haunts one and becomes more beautiful on closer acquaintance. For the high Holy Days, Rosh Hashonah and Yoni Kippur we use the Schlesinger arrangements for services, which make use of traditional settings, Schlesinger compositions and operatic settings of Hebrew texts. Two numbers from Mozart's "Magic Flute" with traditional Hebrew words are so florid and lovely that they might easily be used as concert numbers. We sang the Schlesinger services when I first sang at the Temple thirty years ago and we are still using it, augmented by ancient humns and arrangements by Lewandowski and Adler.

I have been asked to tell of our quartet at Second Presbyterian church, - personnel, garb and rehearsals.

For twenty-three years, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Admire, Bass and Soprano, and I were together with Roy Atkinson, Frank W. Phillips, Lyle Straight and DeWitt Miller, taking their turn as tenor soloist, during that time Mrs. James Reeder was our organist and choirmaster. Our four voices almost became one. We had the "feel" of complete harmony and a fine and congenial relationship. Rehearsals were events to look forward to. We took great pride in the quality of our work and in building a beautiful background for the sermon each Sunday. We had the subject of each sermon far enough in advance to make ample preparation. Our hard work did not keep us from having fun together, - en familie picnics, suppers and trips were a matter of course. We sang extensively and intensively in and around Bloomington giving sacred concerts, dedicating new churches or church organs, chautauqua programs, singing oratorio, etc.

At the beginning of our regime singing in church was really a dress-up affair. We wore our best outfits with picture hats and white gloves. We looked our best and sang our best. I am one who thinks it is easier to sing well when one is well-dressed than when something old and cool is worn under a long, black gown. There is more feeling of uplift when one is dressed for the part. I shall never forget a lovely white hat of Panne velvet trimmed with a sheaf of white egrets which Mrs. Walter Armbruster wore the winter I went to Second Presbyterian to sing. Is it any wonder that a few young women of the congregation, who were more interested in raiment than righteousness, resented it when we adopted gowns for the Sunday morning

service? Needless to say, we soon recognized the convenience and uniformity of the gowns, and they doubtless add to the religious feeling of a service. They are almost without exception, now worn in all of our churches.

The quartet, though, had not been alone in worshiping the Lord in the BEAUTY of holiness, for the ladies and gentlemen of the congregation also dressed for church and Prince Alberts and striped trousers were not uncommon. And! - you should have seen the white boutonnières on Easter Sunday!

It would be an impossibility to remember all of the musicians who were and are so large a part of the worship services of this city, as many were residents of short periods or were teachers or students at the universities. The following are singers, choirmasters and organists who over a period of years have built themselves into the church life of the city.

SOPRANOS

Mrs. Richard J. Smith
Mrs. Willis Harwood
Mrs. Harriet Thomas
Mme. Minnie Salzman Stevens
Mrs. O. R. Skinner
Mrs. Charles T. Stevenson
Ruby Evans Parrett
Mrs. Lyle Straight
Mrs. Delmar Darrah
Mrs. Anthony Elbrich
Mrs. Hal M. Stone, Sr.
Miss Cecil McGraw
Mrs. Lela Mayer Long
Mrs. Ferne Patton Pitsch
Mrs. A. T. Jackson
Mrs. Harry F. Admire
Mrs. Ora Byerly
Mrs. Lloyd Wilson
Mrs. Daniel Gretzinger
Mrs. Leonard Wechner
Mrs. Otto Gerth

CONTRALTOS

Mrs. Guy L. Palmer
Kate Donahue Welch
Ethel Gulick Phillips
Ethel Whittington Iungerich
Ruth Vencill Moore
Ruth Bodell Ramseyer
Genevieve Carlock Green
Mrs. Dwight Drexler

TENORS

C. Roy Atkinson
Lyle F. Straight

Frank W. Phillips
DeWitt P. Miller
J. Alfred Neu
Edward Bryan
William H. Baylor
Leon Vanderwater

BASSES

Homer Arnold
George W. Marton
C. Dale James
Harry F. Admire
Arthur E. Westbrook
Harold D. Saurer
Eugene Cawood

ORGANISTS AND CHOIRMASTERS

Prof. T. W. Westhoff
O. R. Skinner
Clarence Mayer
Mrs. T. E. Wood
Mrs. J. H. Judy
Mrs. Frank Capen
Miss Clara Wilson
Mabel Jones Pitts
Mrs. James Reeder
Miss Blanche Boyce
Mrs. Lillian Mecherle McCord
Miss Frances Kessler
Mrs. Charles H. Snow
Mrs. Herbert Bird
Miss Lucy Brandicon
Mrs. T. O. Tiffin
Vera Pearl Kemp
Mrs. Harold D. Saurer
Mary Slattery Green
Miss Louise Lange
Dwight Drexler
Dr. George L. Scott

All of these, with a host of others, realize what a joy and privilege it is to sing the sublime music of the church to a devout and appreciative congregation.

RUTH BODELL RAMSEYER

Autobiography

I am the daughter of Mrs. W. A. Bodell and the late Rev. W. A. Bodell. As was then customary, I received my early musical training from the church organists. Fortunately, they were the best musicians available in all of my father's charges, - not only as performers but as teachers, too. They managed by hook or crook, to instill in me a love and appreciation for music.

When we moved to Bloomington I enrolled in Wesleyan College of Music and studied voice with Charles E. Sindlinger. Later I studied with Arthur E. Westbrook and did special work with Daniel Protherol.

My most enjoyable and satisfying musical experiences were the twenty-five years with the Second Presbyterian quartet, the High Holy days with their beautiful Hebrew melodies

which I am still singing at Moses Montifiore Temple, and last, but not least, the concerts which we of the Cadman Quartet gave. This organization "played" much of the midwest from 1920 to 1940. We first sang Cadman's "Morning of the Year", then his "White Enchantment". When we were invited to sing both years at the World's Fair,- Chicago's "Century of Progress", these were the two works which we used. Later we added "In a Persian Garden" to our repertoire and also sang the solo parts in out of town productions of "Elijah", the "Messiah" and "Stabat Mater". The other members of this organization were: - Mrs. Lela Mayer Long, soprano; J. Alfred Neu, tenor; Harold Dale Saurer, baritone and Mrs. Saurer, coach and accompanist.

The fine fellowship and good times enjoyed by Bloomington musicians makes our group unique. It is a privilege to be numbered among them.

NEGRO CHURCHES OF BLOOMINGTON

by

CARIBEL WASHINGTON

NEGRO CHURCHES OF BLOOMINGTON

The most interesting and poignant phrase that comes from the lips of our elders is, "I remember when". While gathering information on the local Negro churches all who remembered the beginning and early years of these churches have been most cooperative. They welcomed the opportunity to reminisce on childhood days.

The day dawned bright and promising, and all the members of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church were filled with excitement and anticipation. On this fine summer day in the year 1916 the membership of the church moved from their small frame church, located at South Lee and Water Streets, on the Nickel Plate Railroad, to their new brick building on the corner of Oakland Ave. and Lee Streets. Since October 31, 1865 Mt. Pisgah had held regular worship services in the little church. The eight members that were the nucleus of the church had not foreseen the competition that would arise from the trains on the railroad when they paid \$1000 for a small frame building. As the church grew a need for more quiet and more room filled the minds of the people. In the year 1907 Rev. Hall then pastor of the church purchased a lot at the southwest corner of Lee and Oakland. For the next ten years the major purpose of the members was to build a new church. It was completed in the summer of 1916. At the appointed time the members and friends gathered to lock the door on all their early dreams and labors. They marched gayly up Lee St. with much singing and laughter. Their hearts proud of the great thing that they had accomplished. Many years of sacrifice have gone in the upkeep of the church. Not until 1935 were they able to burn the mortgage and be free of all debt. Since the beginning many pastors have come and gone but still on Sunday morning can be heard the sweet songs of Zion being sung by a congregation of families that have succeeded their elders for eighty five years.

The fond memories of Mother Doage came alive again as she related how her mother, Mrs. Maire Henderson and friend Mrs. Sarah Watson helped to stake off the ground at 514 West Jackson Street in preparation for a new church. This action was the beginning of Union Baptist Church. In the year 1890, twelve families of Negro citizens felt the need of a new church home. They formed a council and began to hold meetings in the homes. For a while this little group held meetings in the church of friends at 905 So. East Street. Soon the desire for their own building grew uppermost in their minds. By each member giving much time and many of hours of labor the little church was built and dedicated in 1892. They applied to the Woodrider Association for membership. They had the honor of being the first new church to be admitted to the Association. This was ample reward for all the sacrifices they had made to gain their desires.

Under the guidance of Rev. Flemings in the early 1900s the building was remodeled. It was also his influence and ability as a singer that added spiritual grace to the church by organization of an active choir.

The property at 517 W. Jackson St. was willed to the church by Mr. Wm. Downs. This could be used for a parsonage or disposed of as the membership saw fit. It has since been sold.

One minister, Rev. Brown, felt a certain restriction to preaching indoors. He erected a tent beside the church and all during his stay services were held in the open air.

During the stay of Rev. A. Miller the church became free of debt and in 1920 the mortgage was burned. The founder Mrs. Marie Henderson held the mortgage while her daughter, Mrs. Lottie Doage, held the candle that truly made Union Church the full and undisputed property of its members.

Wayman Chapel A. M. E. Church has stood as a monument to Negro culture for longer than Bloomington has been a city. The earliest reports credit its beginning in the year 1843 but October 10, 1846 is accepted as the beginning. When Bishop Paul Quinn visited Bloomington on his western tour the church was officially established. The munificent sum of \$300 was paid for the first building that was used as a church. When the need for schools became acute, in the early 1860s the church was used as a school building for negroes during the week and services were held twice daily on Sunday.

For one hundred four years the number 806 North Center has been the site of a church. Many have worshiped there and watched the church grow. It has been remodeled three times. The present building was erected by Rev. J. J. Evans in 1900.

In the A. M. E. Conference Wayman stands for the birthplace of the Sunday School Union. This was organized by Rev. C. S. Smith on Aug. 11, 1882. Rev. Smith had been associated with Cooks Publishing Co. of Elgin, Illinois. He was vacationed from the Connection and permitted to study the operation of a publishinghouse. After two years he established the A. M. E. Sunday School Union here in the basement of the local church. This has later become the A. M. E. Publishing house for the entire country. After two years it was moved to Nashville, Tennessee.

Under the conference system fifty two ministers have guided the religious lives of the membership. Four of these have been elevated and consecrated as Bishops. All visitors to the church recognized the hallowed importance of Wayman Chapel. For it has continued in uninterrupted service in the same location longer than any other church in the conference. It is also the only church in Bloomington that has remained in one location for one hundred years and more.

The Third Christian church was the reality that sprang from the dreams of one, Rev. George Hoagland. He settled in this vicinity and saw the need both for economic growth and religious expansion. With the aid of interested citizens the first organized meeting was held in 1900 in a small store front building on the site of the present church at 303 S. Western Ave. When the strength of the church was such that it warranted a larger building this small building was moved to the back of the lot and a new church was built of concrete and stucco. The smaller building was remodeled to make a parsonage for the church.

Rev. Hoagland also established a factory whose products were Oil of Gladness, a furniture polish of no small renown and dust mops and clothes. The first location was 903 W. Jefferson St. When the volume of business increased the factory moved to 1013 W. Washington St. This business furnished employment for twelve young men and women. The women filled and labeled bottles and sewed oil-mops and dust cloths. The Hoagland family moved away from Bloomington in 1913.

Submitted
by

Caribel Washington

LOCAL NEGRO CHOIRS

by

CARIBEL WASHINGTON

Local Negro Choirs

Most of the choirs in the Negro churches are made up of volunteers. These people give their services free of charge for the privilege of being a member of the church. Many times they are called on to give time to help promote the activities of another church. All of this is done with a good grace and is accepted as an opportunity to invite that choir to participate in return. There are few professional singers in the local choirs but not a one of them finds it difficult to keep a rather high quality to the service they render. Most of them are under a code of ethics that covers any possible friction that might arise as to good relations, or failure to do a good job. This tends to keep the group working harmoniously.

The music of the Negro has remained relatively the same throughout the years. The old Spirituals that have become the folk songs of all America still bring a haunting assurance to those who sing and also to those who hear them sung today. "Go down Moses" and "Swing low sweet chariot" still linger in the hearts of the people bringing a measure of security as it did when our slave ancestors had only songs of a better world to sustain them amid the hardships and humiliations of slavery. "Joshua fit the battle of Jerico" still has the power to call up faith to continue the war-fare of lifes vissions.

Yet a new type of Gospel song has gained a place in the repertoires

of the local choirs.

"Blessed Quietness", a haunting sweet melody sets a soul at peace when sung on Sunday morning. "I am bound for Canaan Land is a moving challenge to soldiers of the cross. The words depicting the movement toward heaven, "Some are coming from the East, Some are coming from the West, There are many ways to enter to that bright celestial home," brings the promise that all roads of faith lead to the throne of God. "I bowed on my knees and cried Holy" is sung when imagination takes us to heaven and we see with the eyes of the mind, the shining countenance of the Savior.

The Martin Studios and Bowles music companies of Chicago have printed thousands of these gospel songs. They are used extensively and provide a stirring and often lively interest to the listening congregation as the tempo of the music is stepped up almost to ragtime to satisfy the rhythm and energy of the younger generation. One of the favorite of almost all who hear it, "Have I given anything Today" is a self analysis of all who strive to live each day, well filled with work of kindness and comfort. "Have I given anything today, Have I helped a needy soul to find the way, From the dawn to setting sun, Have I wounded anyone, Will I weep for what I've done, today.

Still with all of these songs containing within themselves a promise and a hope, without which no person could exist, there is a need for the standard hymns that are sung in all churches, whatever the denomination or wherever the church.

The sweet strains of "What a friend we have in Jesus, Sweet Hour of Prayer, In the cross of Christ I glory, and countless others will never lose their rightful place in the church.

Jesus call us o'er the tumult is a call to war on all that is against the cause of Christ. Its ringing over tones of challenge are a spur to all who hear it.

As long as people get together and have the gift of song there will be a meeting place for those who are striving for a better life.

The Melody Gospel Chorus is an organization that is made up of some of the voices from all of the Local Negro Churches. These people go out and sing for any group that will invite them just for the pure joy of singing and bringing a bit of sunshine into someone else life. There is no cost to anyone for an appearance of this chorus. They do charity work from contributions that are given to them when they sing. Each member buys the music that is necessary for the programs and gives unlimited time to help promote this enterprize of good will.

Caribel Washington,

THE LIGHTED CROSS

The cross on church of Holy Trinity
On Christmas eve, was brilliantly alight;
The tower itself was beautiful to see,
Illuminated 'mid darkness of night;
There a triumphant faith was signified,
In expectant stillness over the earth,
That ushered in another Christmastide,
In joyous welcome of the Savior's birth.

The hurrying pedestrians were thrilled,
Many paused by the spectacle impressed;
And hearts heavy in a world crisis-filled,
Comforted by that shining symbol blest -
Its promise sent them on in happier mood,
With season's deeper spirit more imbued.

James Hart

HOLY TRINITY PARISH IN BLOOMINGTON

by

Mary C. Gleeson

grandson, Bridget O'Brien, and which was thereafter set apart
to be used in subsequent baptisms in the O'Brien home. It has
never since been used for any other purpose, and now belongs
to the O'Brien children.

HOLY TRINITY PARISH IN BLOOMINGTON

According to my grandmother's story, the first Mass was celebrated
by my grandfather, nineteen years before my birth. They were Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Dwyer, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick
Flannery, Mr. Peter Flannery, Mr. and Mrs. John P. Maloney,
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Maloney, and Mr. and Mrs. John P. Maloney.

By Mary C. Gleeson

Holy Trinity Parish, the first Roman Catholic parish in
Bloomington (and in McLean County), will celebrate its
Centennial Anniversary in 1953. It dates back to November
1853, when the Reverend Bernard O'Hara was sent to Bloomington
by the Right Reverend Anthony Regan, Bishop of Chicago, to
organize the parish and to serve as its first pastor.

Actually, however, Catholic services had been held in
Bloomington at irregular intervals for at least two years
prior to the organization of the parish. Masses were cele-
brated, infants baptised, and marriages solemnized in the parlor
of the home of William and Bridget O'Brien at 506 East Jefferson
Street, as early probably as the spring of 1851. From the time
I was a small child I lived in my grandfather's home, and as
far back as my memory goes I recall hearing about the first
Mass celebrated in Bloomington, and about the efforts and plans
made to bring a Catholic priest to Bloomington to organize a
parish here.

William O'Brien was my grandmother's brother. He and my
grandfather and grandmother, Thomas and Johanna O'Brien Holly,
were the third and fourth Catholic families to settle in the
little city of Bloomington. They came here from Chicago on
May 5, 1850, just after Bloomington's incorporation. From
the time of their arrival they and the few other Catholics who
soon thereafter came to Bloomington were determined to find
some means of organizing a parish here. They were devout
Catholics who never before had lived in a community where they
did not have the opportunity to attend Mass regularly.

William O'Brien was a man of great tenacity of purpose.
After he had built his home, and after his first child, Julia,
was born in February 1851, he was determined to take some steps
to make it possible for the Catholics in Bloomington to hear
Mass, at least occasionally, and to receive the sacraments of
their church.

A very few years earlier a Catholic parish had been
organized in Peoria by priests who came there from the LaSalle
Mission. William went to Peoria on horseback, leading a
saddled horse, and by that means of transportation one of the
early Peoria parish priests came to Bloomington and celebrated
Mass in the parlor of the O'Brien home and baptised Julia, who
was the first Catholic child to be baptised in Bloomington.
The baptismal font was a water pitcher that belonged to my

grandaunt, Bridget O'Brien, and which was thereafter set apart to be used in subsequent baptisms in the O'Brien home. It has ever since been treasured as a family heirloom, and now belongs to the O'Brien granddaughters who were Julia's children.

According to a memorandum kept for years by my grandfather, nineteen persons were present at that first Mass. They were Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Dwyer, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Flannery, Mr. Peter Flannery, Mr. and Mrs. John P. Maloney, Mr. and Mrs. John Mahoney, Mr. William O'Neal, Mr. John Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Spellman, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Mr. Michael Winn, Mr. and Mrs. William O'Brien, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Holly. They were humble people, recently come from Ireland to make their homes in America. They do not number among them names which became famous in the later years of their lives, but they did have within their hearts a great love of God and a firm and steadfast belief in the faith of our fathers. They represent those whom Father Weldon in after years affectionately called "The Old Guard", the tried and the true who gave unsparingly of their time, energy and devotion to build Holy Trinity, whose willingness to make sacrifices for the things they thought best instilled in their pastors a confidence which made their work lighter.

Such was the actual beginning of the Catholic parish in Bloomington. Unfortunately, the exact date of that first Mass has been lost, but family tradition places it in the month of May 1851. Thereafter, at intervals, and whenever it was possible for a priest to make the trip to Bloomington, services were held in the home of William O'Brien. By November 1853, when the parish was regularly organized with Father O'Hara as pastor, thirty-three communicants were on hand to attend his first Mass, which was said in the old Court House, and thereafter the Catholic population increased rapidly, the congregation including many who traveled here from rural areas in the county, as distant as Lexington, and farther.

To Catholics of my generation, recollections of Holy Trinity are bound inseparably to our memories of Father Michael Weldon. During the twenty-six years prior to his coming, Holy Trinity had had nine pastors. Some of them had been here for less than one year, some on temporary assignments only. The record of those years shows that some of the priests who came to Bloomington during that period were forced to resign on account of illness - life was pretty "rugged", and only the most robust could survive. Then, on July 2, 1879, Father Weldon came to Holy Trinity, and remained as our beloved pastor, continuously, for forty-five years, and until his death on May 16, 1924. During the last five years of his pastorate he was retired, because of failing health, and the Rev. Charles H. Medcalf served as administrator during that interval, Father Weldon retaining the title of pastor, and continuing to live at the residence. Holy Trinity is one of the so-called "permanent" charges in the Peoria Diocese, the priest appointed to be its pastor contin-

uing as such until his death, unless he asks to be relieved of his duties.

Father Weldon's administration saw a tremendous growth in the size of the congregation attending Holy Trinity. In 1893 St. Patrick's was organized to accomodate Catholics living in its neighborhood, and some twenty years or so ago Holy Trinity's western boundary was again moved eastward, in a further adjustment of the congregation.

Father Weldon had the whole-hearted cooperation of his parishioners in his endeavor to improve and beautify the church itself, and to build up to a high standard the schools of the parish. He was very proud, and justly so, of the work of the parochial schools. I remember his great satisfaction when he was able to announce that Trinity High (then known as St. Mary's) had attained a standard which entitled it to full credit at the University of Illinois.

I well remember the first day I went to school, which is also my first definite recollection of Father Weldon himself, - in 1896. At that time the Dominican Sisters were conducting St. Joseph's Academy, a boarding and day school for girls, in the building at the corner of Center and Walnut streets. My mother as a girl had attended St. Joseph's Academy, and when I arrived at school age she had no thought but that I should enter there also. At that time most of the Academy students were boarding school girls, many of them from nearby rural communities. There were a few day students from Bloomington, but only a small enrollment. The Dominicans were also teachers in the parochial grade and high school, which was Father Weldon's pride and joy. I had been attending St. Joseph's but one day when Father Weldon came looking for me, took me by the hand and escorted me across the schoolyards to St. Mary's and established me at a desk in the first grade room, with a pat on the shoulder and the statement "this is where you belong". And there I stayed, to my great satisfaction thereafter. At first I wasn't sure how I felt - the Academy was surrounded by a beautiful green lawn, on which the students played sedately in a most ladylike manner. The halls of the Academy resounded with the tinkling of pianos on which the little girls "practiced". With one-half of my heart I envied them, but the other half rejoiced in the wild games of tag and the climbing of fences and walking stone copings which was a part of life at St. Mary's. The rooms were crowded, boys and girls clattering and banging on the stairs and across the paved brick yard and against the high board fence that then surrounded it. It was just perfect. The Sisters who taught us, I now realize, exercised the most wonderful discretion in seeing only the really flagrant violations of conduct.

Father Weldon was the very heart and soul of the school. He possessed the great gift of friendliness, and had a warm personal interest in every one of his parishioners, not only in

their spiritual welfare, as their pastor, but in their everyday life as well. Those thousands of us who as children at St. Mary's came under his guidance will always remember him with deep affection. Not a day passed, if he was in the city, that he did not visit each classroom. I can still hear his "Good morning, children!" as he came through the door, and the shouted "Good morning, Father!" that answered him, resounding through the corridors as he passed from room to room. He always wanted to know, in winter, if we "were warm enough in here?" If a little girl had a bright new dress, or a little boy was wearing new shoes or a particularly clean and shining face, Father Weldon saw it, and his "That's a pretty dress, Mary", and "You look fine this morning, Johnnie", and his "Good!" when your report card showed improvement, left a warm glow that lasted all day, and made every child strive a little harder for his approval. He knew every child by his first name, and never forgot it when he met us years after we had finished school.

He counted his friends by the thousands, among Catholics and non-Catholics alike, and he guided Holy Trinity through years of war and strife, and through periods of intolerance and depression, with a firm and kindly hand. It was his natural way to make friends with people, and to consider always "the other fellow's" beliefs and convictions, and to work for a mutual understanding, and he seldom failed.

Father Weldon was intensely interested in and worked for anything that meant an improvement for Bloomington, and on May 10, 1916, on the occasion of his investiture as Monsignor, marking him as a Domestic Prelate of the Papal Household, Bloomington citizens proved that they reciprocated that love and interest in a great public demonstration in Father Weldon's honor at the Chatterton Opera House. And again, on the day of his funeral, the entire community sorrowed in his passing, the stores of the city being closed for two hours during the time of his funeral, which was attended by thousands, who came, as The Pantagraph expressed it, "to do honor to the best known priest in Illinois".

In July 1924 the Reverend Stephen N. Moore came to Bloomington, appointed by Bishop Edmund M. Dunne to be pastor of Holy Trinity. Father Moore came to Bloomington from Clinton, where for ten years he had been pastor of St. John's Parish, and where he had built St. John's Parochial School.

During the latter years of Father Weldon's life very little had been done in the way of carrying forward new building and needed improvements. For many years the school building on Locust Street, which housed both grade and high school departments, had been greatly over-crowded, and one of the first tasks which faced Father Moore upon his arrival in Bloomington was the building of a new high school. Father Medcalf, during the period of his administration, had arranged for the purchase of the block of ground upon which Trinity High School now stands.

This was the site of the old Milner residence, the home of Miss Angie Milner, and one of the landmarks of the city. Some years earlier the Dominican Sisters had purchased the block from M. ss Milner, and with some very minor improvements the old house had been used for additional school rooms. It now became the property of the parish, and Father Moore at once began upon plans for the construction of the school building.

The purchase of the Milner block had about exhausted available parish funds, and the amount required for the building of the high school, \$285,000, had to be raised from "scratch". The corner stone of the building was laid in the summer of 1927, and the building was completed and ready for occupancy the first week in September 1928.

The availability of the splendid new high school made possible and brought about an increase in enrollment in all departments, and stepped up mightily the athletic program in the high school.

In 1940 the first Trinity Kindergarten was opened. Kindergartens in Bloomington and Normal were all filled to capacity, with waiting lists for most of them. Father Moore agreed with teachers and parents that it would be of great advantage to many children entering the first grade to have the previous training afforded by kindergarten. A room in the grade school was therefore decorated and furnished, and equipment built and procured, by the parents of the children who were enrolled in the first kindergarten class. The room is conducted upon a plan which follows the most approved ideas in kindergarten teaching, and has been highly successful. Morning and afternoon sessions are held, attended by different groups of children.

During the past few years there has been a steady increase in the first grade enrollment, until now there are eighty children in this grade. Regardless of this large first grade enrollment, individual differences and needs of the children are considered, and adaptation of instructions to different levels of ability, to different rates of learning, and to various pupil needs are made.

The purpose of Catholic education is to teach and train the children to be genuine Christians and worthy members of society. Therefore, in organizing a Catholic school program this basis purpose of all good teaching is kept ever in mind - to promote the spiritual, mental, social, moral and emotional growth of the child; to increase his physical well-being and to develop a balanced and stable personality - in other words, to educate the whole child, spiritually, mentally, socially and physically. The Dominican Sisters are classed among the best qualified teachers in the country, and number among their community some very talented educators. They have been conducting Holy Trinity schools since 1876, when five members of the community came to comprise the teaching staff of St. Joseph's Academy. At the present time there are ten teachers in the

high school, ten in the grade school, and one music teacher. There are about 300 pupils enrolled in the high school, and about 500 in the grade school.

Holy Trinity parish moved steadily forward under Father Moore's wise guidance until disaster overtook us in the early morning of March 8, 1932, when our great old church was burned to the ground. Our household was awakened long before daylight by a telephone call from a friend who lived across the street from the church, telling us that Holy Trinity was on fire, and we arrived at the scene only a few minutes before the tall tower over the front door, and the great cross atop it, crashed in flames into the wreckage. It was a bitterly cold morning, and the water which the firemen were spraying onto the building was fast turning into ice, behind which the flames leaped and flared. The scene was almost indescribable - a scene of mourning. Crowds of people, muffled against the cold, stood silently watching, many of them with tears streaming down their cheeks. Everything was in ruins - the great altar, before which we had knelt thousands of times in moments of great happiness and of bitter grief - the vast, beautiful paintings on the ceiling over the central nave, painted by an Italian artist to obtain whose work Father Weldon had waited for many years; the beautiful stained glass memorial windows; the well-loved interior, peopled in our minds by all those who had spent so many hours within its walls. I felt an almost intolerable sense of loss, and I knew how much greater than must be to my mother and those of her generation who remembered the building of the old church, through the eleven long years the congregation had worked and sacrificed to complete its construction.

The fire was discovered by two men passing along Main Street in the very early morning hours, who noticed the reflection of flames on the basement windows. They turned in an alarm and aroused Father Moore and the members of his household, but before the fire department arrived the fire was out of control and it was impossible to enter the church. The old Academy and the rectory buildings were unharmed, because of a strong wind blowing from the west, but several of the houses across Main street to the east were endangered by small fires which started on their roofs.

The origin of the fire was never determined, but the feeling persisted that it was incendiary. Two days earlier and also in the nighttime, Jefferson School had been totally destroyed by fire which, like the fire at the church, was out of control almost as soon as discovered. And a few days before that the amphitheatre at the Bongo Amusement Park south of the city was burned down. No cause for any of these fires ever was discovered, and their occurrence almost simultaneously strengthened the theory of incendiarism.

The loss of the church was a crushing blow to Father Moore, but even before the day had fully dawned offers of assistance of all kinds poured in from our good neighbors in Bloomington. A chapel was set up in the gymnasium of the High School, a little altar borrowed from one of the other Catholic churches was put in place on the stage, the Masonic fraternity furnished us with all the folding chairs the floor of the gym would accomodate, and before twenty-four hours had passed Holy Trinity was holding services in the temporary chapel, and there we remained until the new church was completed.

Due to Father Moore's foresight and good business judgment, the loss to the parish through the destruction of the church was fully covered by insurance. The amount of this loss, determined to be \$225,726, was paid by the insurers in May 1932, plans for a new church were drawn, and rebuilding started as soon as the wreckage could be cleared away. It was found that some of the unburned portions of the old church walls and foundations were of such staunch construction that it was almost impossible to dislodge them, and the walls of the new church therefore, in many places, are built around and over the old masonry, so that a little concealed portion of the old church still remains with us. The corner stone was laid in March 1933, by Father Moore, assisted by Rev. John P. Farrell and Rev. Louis J. Seisel, Holy Trinity assistants at that time, and on March 2, 1934 the church was dedicated by the Most Reverend J. H. Schlarmann, Bishop of the Peoria Diocese. It is on the exact site of and very similar in proportions to the old church. It has a seating capacity of 1400, which is taxed to the utmost at each of the five Masses every Sunday. The congregation is one of the largest Catholic congregations in the State but, because no recent census has been completed, I cannot state the exact number of members at present.

All of the money realized from the insurance was devoted to the construction of the building proper - the altars, altar railings, the stained glass windows, organs, stations of the cross, and the lights, were donated by parishioners, for the most part as memorials. By hard work in soliciting funds, through legacies and gifts from various sources, Father Moore was able to announce to the parish on January 1, 1944 that all of the indebtedness on church and school had been entirely paid. It was indeed a magnificent piece of work accomplished in a few years.

In the autumn of 1945, at the request of the Most. Rev. J. H. Schlarmann, Bishop of Peoria, Father Moore was elevated by Pope Pius XII. to the dignity of Domestic Prelate, with the title of Monsignor. His investiture took place in St. Mary's Cathedral, in Peoria, in December of that year.

Father Moore resigned his charge as pastor of Holy Trinity on July 1, 1948. For about a year he had been troubled with failing eyesight and impaired hearing, and after giving much consideration to the best interests and welfare of Holy Trinity

Heading back over what I have written in this "recollection"
he concluded that they would be best served by some one unhampered by failing health. In reaching this conclusion he took no account of the fact that to leave his beloved Holy Trinity would mean heartbreak for himself. He set that aside as of no weight against his consideration of what would be best for the parish, and he requested of Bishop Schlarman that he be permitted to retire, and to resign his duties as pastor. The Bishop, sympathising with Father Moore, and respecting his decision, granted his request.

It was also Father Moore's personal conviction that his successor should have a free hand in charting his own course in conducting parish affairs, and that it would be best for everyone concerned if he himself did not continue to reside in Bloomington. Accordingly, soon after his resignation we were forced to say farewell to Father Moore, with the sincere hope that relief from the many duties which he had so magnificently discharged as pastor of Holy Trinity would result in improved health, and that he would enjoy for many years the leisure and relaxation which he had so surely earned.

After leaving Bloomington Father Moore lived in Nebraska for one year, then returned to Illinois, where he would be nearer relatives and friends, and purchased a home at Streator, Illinois, where he now lives, not far from the farm home which was his birthplace.

Holy Trinity has been singularly blessed in having had but three changes in pastors during all of seventy-one years - Father Weldon, Father Moore, and Father John Sheedy, who upon Father Moore's resignation came to Bloomington from Pekin, Illinois, and whose very able hands now direct the administration of Holy Trinity. A great deal of the burden of church and school work in the parish is carried by two assistant pastors assigned to Holy Trinity, and some of the best known priests in the diocese have served here in that capacity. Notably, within my own recollection, are the Rev. Charles H. Medcalf, who acted as Father Weldon's administrator during the five years of his retirement, and who died this last August in Ottawa; Father Thomas E. Shea, who was Father Moore's "right arm" in planning and building Holy Trinity High School; Father John P. Farrell, first assistant during the hard days of the fire and building of the church, and who was known throughout the state as an exceptionally fine athletic director. Father Farrell, after leaving Bloomington, was assigned as Chaplain to the Reformatory at Pontiac, where for years he was the good friend and champion of the boys who were in that institution. He died, about two years ago, at Danville, where he was pastor of St. John's Church. Father Richard Raney and Father Edward Lohan, also assistants to Father Moore, are among the priests beloved by Holy Trinity, and were particularly the confidants and "mentors" of the Trinity students. Father Richard O'Brien is now our first assistant pastor and athletic director, and Father John King is second assistant.

Reading back over what I have written in this "recollection" impresses upon me how much it lacks of what it should contain to tell even briefly the story of Holy Trinity during those years - how much I have overlooked, and how much that should be told is entirely outside of my experience. I have not even touched upon Holy Trinity's sons' and daughters' service in the two World Wars, when its service flags were spangled with hundreds of stars. I haven't mentioned the societies and organizations which have an important place in the story - the Holy Name Society, the Knights of Columbus and the Daughters of Isabella, the National Council of Catholic Women, the Trinity School Club (Parents), and the Newman Club, composed of Catholic students attending colleges in Bloomington-Normal, and, in the years gone by, the Ancient Order of Hibernians. All these have their place in a real picture of the parish, and its activities. All that I can hope for what I have written is that it may serve to "piece" out, some time, a fuller and more adequate story.

To hold the sacred chalice in his hand,
And offer up the solemn sacrifice,
In ancient ritual of the mass to sing
Of Calvary's precious redemption price
For mankind, by our Eucharistic King.

What grateful happiness his dear ones feel,
Prayerfully for the absent, in their hearts,
While for his blessing all the roll they kneel,
And he with hand over bowed heads imparts.
The nuns, his first teachers, share in the joy,
With those who knew him as a bright-faced boy.

James Hart

THE FIRST MASS

(Dedicated to
Rev. Fr. George T. Flynn.)

The shining goal of his young life attained,
Today before the altar he will stand,
In vestments of a priest newly ordained,
To hold the sacred chalice in his hand,
And offer up the solemn sacrifice,
In ancient ritual of the mass to sing
Of Calvary's precious redemption price
For mankind, by our Eucharistic King.

What grateful happiness his dear ones feel,
Prayerfully for the absent, in their hearts,
While for his blessing at the rail they kneel,
And he with hand over bowed heads imparts.
The nuns, his first teachers, share in the joy,
With those who knew him as a bright-faced boy.

James Hart

HISTORY OF THE FOUNDING
OF THE FAIRVIEW SANITORIUM

by

DR. VINCENT B. MARQUIS

HISTORY OF THE FOUNDING OF FAIRVIEW SANATORIUM

The early beginnings of the movement that eventually resulted in the building of Fairview Sanatorium are recorded in the minutes of the organization that eventually became the McLean County Tuberculosis Association. The first meeting was held January 2, 1908 in the office of Rowell & Lindley, in the Griesheim Building. Those present were Col. D. C. Smith, Capt. J. H. Rowell, C. P. Soper, Edmund O'Connell, Dr. E. Mammen, Dr. F. O. Jackman, Dr. J. H. Fenelon and J. L. Hasbrouck.

Col. Smith was chosen chairman, and Mr. Hasbrouck, secretary.

The following resolution was offered by Dr. Mammen, and adopted: "Resolved, that it is the sense of this meeting that an organization be formed for the furtherance of a movement for the prevention and cure of tuberculosis in McLean County".

The minutes further state that after considerable discussion the following motion was offered by Mr. Soper, and carried: "That Mr. O'Connell be instructed to go to Springfield next week to secure an amendment to a bill now pending in the Legislature, so that it shall give authority to counties to establish and maintain an institution for the care, cure, and prevention of tuberculosis; also that he confer with any persons whom he sees fit, and take with him anyone he desires for the purpose mentioned".

The next meeting was held January 4, 1909, when Mr. O'Connell reported that his trip to Springfield had been fruitless, since it was then too late in the session of the Legislature to secure passage of the bill. He also read the draft of the proposed bill which he had drawn up in accordance with the instructions of the Judiciary Committee of the Board of Supervisors of McLean County, with whom he had conferred.

The next meeting of the group, on January 16, 1909, was attended by Senator Frank Funk and Representatives W. H. Wright and D. D. Donahue, by invitation, and after discussion they agreed to do what they could to secure passage of the bill.

As evidence to the fact that these public spirited citizens were really pioneering, the minutes further state that "the Secretary was instructed to write to the Secretary of the International Tuberculosis Congress At Washington, D. C., to ascertain if any other state has a law for establishing county tuberculosis sanatoria similar to the one proposed for Illinois".

The law giving counties power to establish and maintain tuberculosis sanatoria was passed in 1909. Then began the long, slow task of educating the people and the Board of Supervisors to the need and feasibility of establishing such a sanatorium in McLean County. To do this the group, at a meeting held September 26, 1911, voted that they should be known as the McLean County Anti-Tuberculosis Society, and that they should affiliate with the National and State organizations. The officers elected were as follows: Col. D. C. Smith, Honorary President; E. W. Cole, Acting President; Henry Behr, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, and J. L. Hasbrouck, Recording Secretary.

This group proceeded to make plans for an educational campaign and the circulation of petitions asking the Supervisors to establish a sanatorium. The plan was to get 20,000 people to sign these petitions. During the fall of 1911 speakers were sent out to the smaller towns in the county, and to various clubs and meetings in Bloomington.

In June 1912 the Anti-Tuberculosis Society arranged for a public hearing at the meeting of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. E. W. Cole introduced the speakers, and the establishment of a county sanatorium was urged by each one of them. Those who talked included Rev. S. H. Zendt, Mr. Edmund O'Connell, Mr. Thomas Shea, President of the Bloomington Trades Assembly; Dr. T. W. Bath, City Health Commissioner; Mr. Oscar Mandel, Ex-Governor Fifer, Mr. Al Ulbrich, Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus; Mr. Campbell Holton, Dr. J. H. Fenelon, Mr. Clinton P. Soper, Mr. Ira Whitmer, Rev. Edgar DeWitt Jones, and Mr. J. B. Bates of The Pantagraph. An entire half day was spent in presenting these talks, and later action of the Board consisted in the appointment of a committee to study the question and report at the September meeting. This committee reported favorably, but when the question came up for vote it was defeated. The article in The Pantagraph reporting this action states "there was no discussion, and the burial services of the tuberculosis proposition were brief".

There followed a period of several years during which the real ground work of the tuberculosis control program was laid. The Society obtained finances by the sale of Christmas Seals, which in these early years amounted to about \$500 to \$700 annually. In February 1913, at the suggestion of Dr. Ernest Mammen, it was decided to establish a registration system of all cases of tuberculosis, and Mrs. Jane K. Brett was hired on a part time basis, at \$10 per month, to do this work. This proved to be the beginning of the visiting nurse program, as Mrs. Brett in January 1914 was employed full time as visiting nurse. Her work was largely educational, - instructing patients in the value of fresh air, good nourishment, etc., - also teaching them the ways to prevent spreading the disease.

Mrs. Brett's early reports are very interesting accounts of conditions as they were at that time. She estimates that there were at least 300 cases in Bloomington and Normal, and emphasized the difficulty in locating cases because of the stigma attached to the disease. It was always necessary to keep names secret, and doctors were very reluctant to report cases for fear of offending their patients. She said that it seemed to be characteristic of patients to change doctors frequently, at first, and then to get along entirely without any doctor. Of course most of the cases died, and she considered the prevention of new cases as her greatest accomplishment, and stressed the need of a sanatorium so that the patients could really get some care and treatment.

In 1915 a new State law, known as the Glacken Act, which gave counties power to establish and maintain sanatoria and do other work in the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis, was passed. This law required that if 100 legal voters so petitioned the Board of Supervisors, the Supervisors were required to order a referendum vote on the question of establishing a sanatorium. Such a petition was presented in McLean County in 1915, and in March 1916 a resolution directing the County Clerk to prepare ballots for the November election passed the Board of Supervisors.

The election was held November 7, 1916, and the people of the county voted to establish a sanatorium. The final count was 9661 votes for and 7714 votes against the proposition. This was the successful culmination of eight years of work by a small group of interested, public spirited citizens, who had done excellent work in educating the public, and demonstrating the real need for a sanatorium and for organized preventive and educational work financed by tax money.

The Glackin Act provides that when a county votes to establish a sanatorium and enter into a tuberculosis control program, the work shall be administered by a board of three directors appointed by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, with the approval of that Board. The first such directors appointed were Dr. C. M. Noble, Mrs. Jacob A. Bohrer and Mr. Jacob Martens. The first action of this Board was to request a tax levy of one mill on each assessed \$100 valuation, which would bring in about \$40,000. This levy was passed in September 1917, the tax to be collected in 1918.

The Board also took steps to establish a tuberculosis dispensary. The first clinic was held January 2, 1918 at 103 East Market Street, in the rear of the Eddy Building. The cost of operation of the dispensary was divided between the County and the Anti-Tuberculosis Association. Dr. Bernice Curry was employed to be in charge as diagnostician, Mrs. Jane K. Brett as executive secretary, and Mrs. Earl Cooper as visiting nurse. Clinics were held twice a week to diagnose tuberculosis and supervise cases when found.

In the meantime a site for the Sanatorium was selected one-half mile north of Normal on Main Street, plans were prepared, and construction started in 1918.

In January 1919 Mr. E. W. Cole, who had been President of the McLean County Anti-Tuberculosis Association since its organization, resigned, as he was moving to California. New officers then elected were as follows: President, Col. D. C. Smith; Vice President and Chairman of Executive Committee, Mrs. J. A. Bohrer; Recording Secretary, Mr. J. L. Hasbrouck; Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Henry Behr; Executive Committee, Mrs. Bohrer, Dr. E. Mammen, Mr. Edmund O'Connell, Mr. J. K. Stableton, Dr. William M. Young, Dr. Guy Sloan, Mr. E. M. Evans, and Dr. Frank Fisher.

It will be noted that many of these persons had been active in this work since its inception. Mrs. Bohrer became interested somewhat later, but from the time she joined the group she was always very active in the work and contributed greatly to the cause as Seal Sale Chairman for many years, as member of the Executive Committee, member of the Sanatorium Board, etc. At this January meeting a rising vote of thanks to Mrs. Bohrer was given "expressing the appreciation and gratitude of the members for her enthusiastic labors for the society, without which the dispensary and the County Sanatorium could never have been realized".

The Sanatorium was completed in the summer of 1919 and was formally opened at a service on Sunday afternoon, August 17, 1919 attended by about 2000 persons. Mr. William Schmidt, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, was chairman of the meeting. Rev. J. L. Jackson offered an invocation, and Mr. Dale James led in the singing of "America". Col. D. C. Smith, President of the McLean County Anti-Tuberculosis Society, spoke at length, giving a brief historical review and praising especially the work of Mr. E. W. Cole, Mr. J. L. Hasbrouck, Mr. Henry Behr, Dr. Ernest Mammen and Mr. Edmund O'Connell. Later in the program a bronze tablet was unveiled, having the following inscription: "Presented by the McLean County Anti-Tuberculosis Society in Recognition of the Services of Florence Fifer Bohrer, 1919". This tablet is mounted over the fireplace in the reception room of the Sanatorium.

The first patients were admitted August 19, 1919. Dr. Bernice Curry was appointed Medical Director of the Sanatorium, and Miss Catherine Smith, Superintendent.

The death rate from tuberculosis in McLean County in 1919 was 84.4 per 100,000. This rate has fallen, since the opening of the Sanatorium, steadily, to the low of 11.6 per 100,000. This continual decline in the number of people dying from tuberculosis has been ample proof of the wisdom of those who worked so long and tirelessly for the founding of the Sanatorium.

DR. VINCENT B. MARQUIS

Dr. Vincent B. Marquis, Medical Director of Fairview Sanatorium, has been a life-long resident of Bloomington, where he was born the youngest son of Franklin D. and Caroline Brush Marquis. His parents, while not born in Bloomington, came here as small children not long after the Civil War. His father was for fifty-five years connected with the Peoples Bank.

Dr. Marquis attended the Bloomington schools, Illinois Wesleyan University, Ohio State University, and was graduated with honors from the University of Illinois in Chemical Engineering. After working for two years as a chemist - one year of which was in Cuba - he entered Rush Medical College in Chicago. After completing the required course he interned at the Buffalo General Hospital and Bellevue Hospital in New York. He also completed the course in the Trudeau School, Saranac Lake, New York. Upon his return to Bloomington he opened an office in the general practice of medicine, and later became associated with Drs. Hart and Hawks. Since 1929 he has been Medical Director of Fairview. During the war he also assumed the duties of Health Director for the City of Bloomington.

THE STORY OF LAKE BLOOMINGTON

by

CHESTER C. WILLIAMS

THE STORY OF LAKE BLOOMINGTON

By

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Lake Bloomington, widely known for its natural beauty and recreational facilities, is the realization of a life-long dream of a few of Bloomington's public spirited citizens.

The inadequacy and poor quality of water supplied in Bloomington lead to the appointment, by the Association of Commerce, of a Water Committee of 11, whose duty was to investigate and study the lands and creeks within a reasonable proximity of Bloomington for the purpose of securing a new and pure water supply for the community.

In 1921 the first survey was made of five possible soft water sources near the city; from 1921 to 1925 the Water Committee took active interest in the proposed project, and fortified itself by numerous surveys and data preparatory to making recommendations.

In 1925 the City Council of Bloomington requested a survey of its local water and light plant, because of the bad conditions of some of its equipment, which gave encouragement and added enthusiasm to the work already started.

In 1926 the first proposed plan for getting soft water and larger quantities by private capital was made.

In February 1927, after decades of discussion and research, the Bloomington Water Company, a one and one half million dollar corporation, was organized with civic betterment instead of private profit as its objective.

This Corporation was formed primarily to finance a permanent municipal water supply for Bloomington, along with plans for large community recreational opportunities. Capital to carry on the project was obtained by the sale of 75,000 shares of stock which the public of Bloomington and Normal purchased.

The Impounding System was decided upon after exhaustive studies of eminent engineers indicated it was superior. All plans and specifications of the project were approved by the City Council.

The cost of the system was \$1,200,000 financed -- \$200,000 of 6% preferred stock sold to Bloomington-Normal citizens -- \$1,000,000 bonds handled through Chicago financiers -- bonds to run a period of 25 years -- preferred stock to be taken up when bonds have all been paid -- revenue with which to take care of the bonds and stock to be derived from sale of water to Bloomington citizens. Bonds payable \$8,000 per year from water receipts.

1600 acres of Money Creek Valley were purchased and reservoir site prepared. 60 square miles is contained in the present drainage system emptying into Lake Bloomington. Capacity of Lake, approximately 2,000,000,000 gallon; storage capacity of potable water 10,500,000 gallon; daily capacity of purification works and transmission main is 5,000,000 gallon per day.

The water is purified by treatment with lime to soften; alum to coagulate or recarbonated to stop after precipitation and sterilization with liquid chlorine and is conveyed to the city through 24" cast iron pipe line, there being 125 miles of distribution mains. The water is pumped

from the purification works at Lake Bloomington. (715' above sea level) into the Bloomington reservoir and from there is forced by pressure of 95# into the water mains of the city.

On September 1, 1931, the Water Company was liquidated and the City of Bloomington purchased the entire holdings of the Company, giving to the municipality not only an adequate supply of pure soft water for domestic and industrial use, but a lovely lake.

The pump station and purification plant, a modern laboratory where expert chemists are continually at work analyzing and testing the water, stands like a nothern Italian Castle on the shores of the lake. The 1,000 foot dam, the spillway and lovely bridge spanning the lake add to the beauty of the wooded low-lands and steep bluffs which form the rim of the lake.

The lake, of 516 acres fed by two creeks, Money Creek and Hickory Creek, with a shore line of $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles is formed of Big Chief Basin, the Palisades, Indian Head, Squaw Basin, Big Buck Basin, Tomahawk Inlet, Kickapoo and Scout Bay. By boat it is $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from end to end of the main body of water

which winds about following the old course of Money Creek, and is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile across at shortest distance, between shores, and a mile across the diagonal.

Lake Bloomington's sylvan hospitality attracts thousands to its park of 1,000 acres which surround the lake -- some of it the firgin forest granted to the pioneer settlers. The Gateway to the Park of native stone and rugged timbers, stands strong and honest like those sturdy pioneers who hewed out their fortunes in this thirsty land, many of whom had come from ocean shores, or eastern lakes, and their souls longed for healing waters -- this new and attractive gateway now leads to living waters, to clean sport, to joy and relaxation of play. Row boats, motor boats, canoes and sailing craft ply the lake's surface; surf riders find ample space on which to exercise their skill in this sport, and swimmers take hot weather comfort in the lake's embrace. The Lake holds especial appeal to fishermen because of its abundance of game fish, such as large and small mouth bass and croppies, stocked by the State.

Spacious Davis Lodge, in the principal park section, is built of logs and adds a picturesque touch to the Big Basin scene. Nearby is the public bathing beach with its ample bathhouse and safety swimming area, outlined by floating buoys and lifelines. Experienced lifeguards are on duty at this spot throughout the day and night hours, while the beach is being operated. At the Public Boat House, adjacent to Davis Lodge, boats are available for rent, and fishing licenses may be secured. The public picnic grounds are supplied with running water, ovens for cooking, tables, benches and all picnic conveniences.

Far removed on the opposite end, and constituting a veritable forest preserve, stands Camp Heffernan, haven for Boy Scouts and Sea Scouts. The pioneer type of structure has been emphasized here in the building of sleeping cabins, the dining hall and a block house, replica of an old time fortress used by settlers in combating Indians. Supervised swimming is an important activity during the Scouts summer season; with improved and zoned waterfront, including buoy marked areas in front of a sturdy wooden mole with diving apparatus. Scouts, however, find all yearround use for their

camp. They are to be seen there hiking and passing their tests almost any time of the year. The nature trails at the Camp are recognized by nature lovers as ideal for meditation and study.

Camp Myra Peairs, the Girl Scout Camp is located on the west side of Big Buck Basin, consisting of a large building known as the Lodge which serves as trading post, meeting room and sleeping quarters for some of the staff. One cabin is used mostly for storing supplies and the tents in which the girls and counselors sleep. The camp has a capacity of 49 girls and operates for six weeks during the summer. During the remainder of the year the Camp is opened from time to time for overnight and weekend trips, at which time the girls and counselors go in small groups and are housed in the Lodge. The Camp Staff are trained professionals and carry on a full camping program.

About midway, as the lake winds between the Public Beach and Camp Heffernan is an inlet with East Bay Community Camp on one side and Limberlost opposite. East Bay Camp is a pioneer village, with its many structures centering on its dining hall. Its half-mile shore line and extensive hinterland

of marsh, woods and prairie afford sufficient areas for many campers and family groups. Large conferences may reserve the entire camp for stated periods. Small groups or individuals will always find some arrangement possible to meet any camp desire. The Camp is a rustic rest spot where all out-door sports, if desired, are available.

As East Bay provides an ideal outing spot for those for whom no such extended recreation would otherwise be practical, so the Limberlost Health Camp is beneficial to many underprivileged boys and girls. Sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, Limberlost is dedicated to the physical and mental well being of children thru out-door vacations.

The beautiful and restful drive, of 10 miles improved gravel road, winding around the irregularly shaped lake, presents a picture long to be remembered. Comfortable, privately owned cottages, the majority of them in rustic or frankly pioneer style, dot the shores.

In the springtime, when in full bloom, the wild crab and plum trees, which grow in great abundance remind one of our Nation's Capitol, famous for its cherry blossoms. The heavily

wooded shores make, in the hot summer months, ideal spots for escape from the sultry city streets, and when the colors of the trees become the brightest and make the greatest contrasts to the foliage that remains green until the late fall, the dusty grays of elms make background to the bronze and yellow of maple leaves, the scarlet sumac, the bright specks of red-haws and the crimson berries of bushes. On this lake road, with practically every foot within sight of the lake, these colors can be seen near at hand and at the farther edge of the water.

Among these trees and shrubs, undisturbed in their growth by man, are found migratory birds, wild game, small fur bearing animals protected by State Game Preserve.

And winter, with its snow and ice brings, not only its grace to this Park, but its many winter sports, skating, sleighing, coasting and ice boating, both with sails and motors.

At no time of the year is the Lake and its Park without visitors relaxing and enjoying nature's own beauty for such is Lake Bloomington - a natural beauty spot.

In assembling the foregoing article I am indebted for parts
of the material to -

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Mary Hubbard Heath, pamphlet entitled "A Modern Miracle".

THE 'STANDPIPE'
(Dedicated to Former Residents
of "The Bush.")

The "Standpipe" was city's tallest landmark,
We children gave it a fabulous height;
It loomed grandly by daytime or in dark,
From near or far our most familiar sight;
It served a use, the graceful rounded tow'r,
That dominated the Bush neighborhood,
And drew our gaze upward in playtime hour,
Where like a friendly sentinel it stood.

On Sundays people got Seth Noble's key,
Climbed stair, from top to look over the town;
Sometimes their voices were wafted faintly,
Or maybe someone's hat came drifting down;
We all believed an oft-repeated tale--
Of boy who once walked on the outer rail

James Hart

WITHERS PUBLIC LIBRARY, BLOOMINGTON

ILLINOIS - HISTORICAL SKETCH

by

ELIZABETH ABRAHAM

WITHERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS
Historical Sketch

Written January 1950, by Elizabeth Abraham, Reference Librarian, 1919-

At the turn of the 20th century, Withers Public Library was well started on its way as a city institution. On May 18, 1894, the trustees of the Bloomington Library Association had appeared before the common council, and formally tendered to the city of Bloomington the Withers Library Building, together with all its possessions, asking only as remuneration, that the city assume the indebtedness of about \$4,000 and establish a free public library. This donation to the city's possessions was accepted and a Board of Directors was appointed by the City Council to take charge of the same. A few months later, on October 12, 1894, the doors of a free public library were thrown open.

One can scarcely begin a sketch of the last fifty years at this point, for all the work and labor of the earlier years, had laid a foundation, both of materials and good will, upon which the new public institution could begin. Therefore it is only fitting that a very brief historic sketch be included,

As early as 1840, a free library, called the Bloomington and McLean County Library, was established by Dr. Henry, Dr. W. C. Hobbs, James Allin and Jesse Fell. It was housed on South Main Street in a room adjoining the school kept by Dr. Hobbs, and contained about 1000 volumes purchased in Philadelphia. But by 1850, the original library seems to have been lost from sight, though by the Federal Census of 1850, McLean County was credited with a library. In the same census, McLean County is credited with four Sunday School libraries containing a total of 800 books. That of the First Presbyterian Sunday School was probably the first collection of books brought to McLean County, which could be dignified by the title of a library. This was brought by Amasa C. Washburn in 1833, who went east one spring and brought out a second-hand library.

Several attempts were made to start another public library, without success until October 2, 1856, when a public meeting was called at Major's Hall for the purpose of effecting a permanent organization. On November 13, 1856, the Ladies' Library Association was formally organized at the First Presbyterian Church and on February 28, 1857 a library was opened to the public on Center Street. This was kept alive by donations of books and the sale of life membership fees of \$5.00 and an annual tax of fifty cents. Other citizens, paying \$3.00 annually, were entitled to the privileges of the library.

The first librarian, Miss Hannah Snow, conducted the affairs of the library with much success until 1865, during which time the library had moved to the third story room in the building owned by Judge David Davis

at the southwest corner of Front and Main Streets, and then to the second floor of 405 North Main Street, as letterheads testify. Here it remained until 1871. The first printed catalogue of 1864 listed the volumes on hand as 1400. Miss Snow's successor, for one year, was Miss Sue A. Walton, who in turn was followed by Mrs. Maria Everly and in 1867 by Mrs. Hannah Rebecca Galliner, who was to serve continuously until 1895.

A factual record of the early years can in no way express the efforts of the citizens of the town and librarian, "who were desirous of promoting and diffusing knowledge in the community, by the purchase and distribution of good and useful books". As memberships and annual dues formed the only source of revenue, all sorts of means were devised to finance the struggling institution. Lecture courses were arranged from 1866 to 1869, at which time eminent speakers were presented, such as Fred Douglass, Hon. Henry Vincent, John B. Gough, Paul B. Du Chaillu, Ralph Emerson and Charles Sumner. These were followed by home talent entertainments which proved very popular, as well as being financially successful. They included plays, tableaux, suppers and baby shows. A roster of the people who aided in filling the library coffers, would fill many pages. Among them were citizens, who later became famous sons and daughters of the city.

On February 23, 1867, a charter was obtained from the legislature and the name was changed from the Ladies' Library Association to the Bloomington Library Association. Men were now admitted to the management. Reading room privileges were free to all, but a fee of \$2.00 was charged for an annual ticket with the privilege of taking books from the room. A life membership was \$50.00 and a voting membership \$10.00 plus \$1.50 annual dues. The home of the library from 1871 to 1887 was a hall on 105 West North Street now West Monroe Street.

With public entertainments no longer popular or profitable, and expenses greatly increased with the growth of the library, it was deemed advisable to ask the city in March 1880 to take charge of the institution, as a free public library. The city declined, however, to add to the burdens of taxation, in spite of the vigorous protests of many citizens as the columns of the local newspaper of the day testify. One column heading, which later proved to be true, read, "The library, a question which the City Council must realize, 'Will not Down'." The library doors were closed on August 7, 1880. Again, a public subscription of funds of \$1,100 met the library's debts, and, after being shut for six weeks, the library was opened once more to the public.

But still the question of support faced the management, and also proper housing. In May 1882, Mrs. Sarah B. Withers presented the site at the corner of East and Washington Streets, the location of Mrs. Withers' first home in Bloomington, and soon after, the solicitation of funds for the new building was begun, with the result that on August of 1886, the Board of Directors voted to erect a two-story brick building. When the building was christened, it was called the Withers Library. Completed by December 1887, it was dedicated on the 27th with a grand banquet and

reception. Listed on the banquet menu were raw oysters, sandwiches, rolls, cold ham, turkey and tongue, salads, jellies, sherbet, ice cream, cake, fruit and coffee. Following the supper a program was given, and subscriptions raised to clear the deficit of \$5,500, the building as it stood, representing a cost of \$20,500.

Again book receptions and entertainments were planned to swell the slender funds of the library. As the property of a corporation accessible to none, except those who were able to pay dues, there never were, at one time, more than four hundred people who thus contributed to its support. The Board of Directors ever hoped that the time might come, when the library would be the property of the city, and be ably supported in accordance with the demands of the citizens. This finally was accomplished, as stated at the beginning of this sketch, in 1894.

Unfortunately just at this time, Mrs. H. R. Galliner, who for more than a quarter of a century had held the office of librarian, was stricken with illness and was unable to avail herself of her great desire to serve in the capacity of librarian of Bloomington Public Library. Her death followed on October 19, 1897. To no one, in its early history, is the library more indebted than to Mrs. Galliner, who because of her untiring zeal and enthusiasm, helped establish and maintain it through the years of uncertainty. Much praise must also be given to Mrs. Sue A. Sanders, President of the Library Board of Directors in 1894 at the time of the transfer of the library to the city, and a continuous member until 1922. Mrs. Sanders was devoted to the welfare of the library and served it with unflagging interest.

Mrs. Galliner's successor, Miss Evva L. Moore of Evanston, Illinois, served as acting librarian until June 1, 1895 and as librarian-in-chief until June 1, 1899 when she resigned to take charge of the Scoville Institute Library of Oak Park, Illinois. On March 1, 1894, the old library contained 13,577 books with 214 booktakers and a circulation of 11,640. Steadily the book collection and circulation increased under the successful administration of Miss Moore, who labored to make the community more library conscious. Soon the building needed renovating to meet new needs. The Bloomington Bulletin of June 6, 1897 notes the awarding of a contract for a new addition at the cost of \$5,020. This addition to the building was to be 60 feet in length and 35 feet wide, including a stairway and entrance at the northwest corner. It was to extend to the alley and be in harmony with the rest of the building. This enlargement had been planned in 1896, but action was deferred until a year later. In the meantime the Bloomington Club had been given a ten year lease on the second floor to run from October 1896 to October 1906, the rental of which helped to defray library costs. Upon the completion of the work, on the evening of May 13, 1898, a reception was given for the City Council and officers. The improvements in the building included complete redecoration, new iron book stacks, two new reference rooms in the rear, called by the newspaper, the room for heavy thinkers, all fitted with new furniture, tables, chairs and desks. The progress and usefulness of the library was noted

by the President, Mrs. A. B. Funk, and the chairman of the finance committee, who strongly urged a 2 mill tax that all claims might be met at the end of the year. Sometimes financial difficulties made it necessary for members of the Library Board to borrow money and to endorse notes personally, as is mentioned in the Board minutes of February 22, 1898.

Miss Moore was genuinely interested in children's work and in the rebuilding, had added a children's department opposite the entrance, in the front of the building. Here were placed low tables, kindergarten chairs and juvenile books and magazines. According to the Bloomington Leader of May 13, 1898, "the children's department was a new idea but one that had been in mind for some time. It was made a necessity by the rapid increase in the number of school children visiting the library. Formerly, out of school hours, they flocked into the main reading room, where with their natural restlessness, they proved a source of great annoyance to the older patrons of the reading room." A staff member of Withers Public Library of that day has said, that sometimes she found it advisable to ask a policeman to walk through the building, in order that his presence might quiet the children, who coming in from the snowy out-doors, were bent on expending their energy in wrestling.

The first annual library day was held December 17, 1898. Being the Christmas season, an exhibit of madonnas was hung and an informal concert was given by the boys' choir of the Episcopal church under the direction of Mr. Arthur Bassett. Two hundred new books were presented for inspection. By actual count over 2,500 visited the library that day.

During Miss Moore's administration, the Illinois Library Association was organized in January of 1896, and Miss Moore was honored with the office of permanent secretary of the new association. Also inter-library loans began to function as early as April of 1898 when the librarian of Champaign asked the loan of "Arenas" from the Withers Library. Very specific conditions were drawn up concerning the same.

Miss Moore was succeeded in June of 1899 by Miss Elma Warrick, an assistant in the University Library at Champaign, who remained, however, but two months. She, in turn, was followed by Miss Nellie Parham, a recent graduate of the Library School of the University of Illinois at Champaign, who became librarian, October 1, 1899. Miss Parham's long and successful record of forty-one years, from 1899 to 1940, is well known. Under her administration, changes were made in the physical set-up of the building three times. One of her first steps was the planning of a special children's room in the rear section of the building, it being thought more essential to provide for children's needs than to house public documents. The question of moving the department was ordered referred to the library committee for action on November 4, 1899. Action soon followed, as in February 3, 1900 it was noted by the minutes of the Library Board that the changing of the children's department would be carried out by the next meeting. It was also agreed to move the age limit of children taking

books from twelve to nine years.

Reminiscing on the great fire of 1900, retired staff members recall the day, when citizens arriving in the down town area, seemed stunned as they saw office buildings and stores completely wiped out and nothing but gaunt chimneys and huge empty spaces remaining. Neighboring stores carried their possessions into the library for safe keeping. It was a day not to be forgotten. Perhaps in keeping with the new Bloomington that was to arise from the ashes, was the ordering of a hitching post to be placed in front of the building in October of 1902.

Librarians of that day usually began their career at the foot of the ladder, learning as apprentices without pay. One employee began at ten cents an hour and later received \$15.00 a month. Another started at \$10.00 a month. Chief librarians were just beginning to enter the professional field. Miss Parham's beginning salary was \$65.00. Another librarian had refused to consider the position at that price. Miss Parham became aware of the need of raising salaries, however, and in 1908, if not before, reported to the Board of Directors, concerning salaries paid in other Illinois libraries. The Board of Directors made decisions in many routine matters such as the books and magazines purchased, which today are usually handled by the chief librarian and department heads. They recommended that librarians practice library hand, as it was called, and also learn to use the typewriter, so that they could all work in various departments. To work in a library, with such cultural surroundings, was considered quite a privilege, not so much emphasis being placed on compensation.

The library staff, as reported in 1904, was Librarian, Miss Nellie E. Parham; Reference Librarian, Mrs. C. F. Kimball; Loan Desk, Miss Mabel C. Ward, Miss Alma Lange; Cataloguer, Miss Nelle F. Webb; Accessioner, Miss Sarah Stowell, and Assistant, Miss Emelie Clark. At that time the janitor was living in the basement of the library, and staff members recall chicken dinners served in the basement apartment by Mrs. Ora King, wife of the janitor, and daughter of the well-known hack driver, A. Hawkins. Sometimes there were complaints of the odors emanating from the basement. The year of 1904 is rather significant in that it contains the name of three librarians who were to give years of service to the library. Miss Sadie Stowell came the same year as Miss Parham and continued until 1925. Miss Nelle Webb came one year later, her years of employment until 1937, covering almost the same period as Miss Parham. Miss Alma Lange followed the next year and continued until 1927. These three persons were familiar faces in the days when the librarians knew all the public by name, as well as the types of books they wished, and in turn the public knew the librarians. Miss Stowell prepared the books for the cataloguer, Miss Webb, and Miss Lange presided at the loan desk. Each had her particular interests. Miss Webb will be especially remembered for her interest in the drama and her friendship with Miss Rachel Crothers. Miss Mabel C. Ward, now Mrs. Mabel W. Moore, whose grandmother, Mrs. J. N. Ward, had been very active in the affairs of the library in the early

years, remained for twelve years and Miss Emelie Clark, now Mrs. H. P. Gardner, for over three years.

As a matter of experiment for the school year of 1898, a delivery station was opened on South Main Street. Mr. E. M. Van Petten, Superintendent of City Schools, spoke before the Library Board of Directors, in the fall of the same year, in behalf of a branch library for the benefit of school children on the west side of the city. No action was taken on the matter at that time. On January 6, 1900, residents adjoining fire station A in the southeast portion of the city, petitioned for restoration of the former library accommodation, which had been discontinued. Early in 1902 the question of loaning books to Sheridan School was brought up and carried. Miss Parham was very interested in the idea of library branches evidenced by the fact that in 1903 delivery stations were established at the Sheridan, Raymond, Lincoln and St. Patrick's schools for the convenience of patrons. On December 7, 1907, the opening of a branch station on West Market Street was discussed. Three dollars per month were allowed for maintenance of a reading room and branch library station, in connection with the Day Nursery, for one year. This experiment was approved and was carried on until 1943. The librarian was also empowered to make arrangements with the Chicago and Alton library committee regarding the circulation of its library books in conjunction with the Chicago and Alton Library.

Miss Parham maintained her relations with the University of Illinois Library School of which she was a graduate, and in 1904, Miss Katharine L. Sharp of that school brought her senior class from Champaign to visit the local library and all were entertained at the Illinois Hotel for dinner. The State Library Association meetings were held here on February 20th, 21st, and 22nd, of 1907.

On May 30, 1911, there occurred in the park adjoining the library, an event of considerable importance. It was the "programme of dedication and unveiling exercises of Trotter Memorial Fountain in the children's playground, Withers' Park." The land adjacent to the library building had been deeded to the city by Mrs. Sarah B. Withers, to be forever used as a playground for the children of the city under the title of Withers Park. This unveiling was a community affair. A parade of public officers and citizens in carriages was formed, ending at the children's playground. The Trotter fountain was given, under the will of James Trotter, as a memorial to his father and mother, brother and sisters. The provisions of the will were carried out under the direction of Mrs. Sarah Raymond Fitzwilliam, for many years superintendent of the school system of Bloomington. She had also served on the Board of Directors of the public library, and was acquainted with the will of Mrs. Sarah Withers who gave the ground for the library and the children's playground adjoining it. Therefore it was easily arranged that the Trotter Memorial fountain should be located in this small park.

Mr. Lorado Taft, the sculptor, in his interpretation of the design,

spoke these words. "I wanted to tell our children and their children that little ones have played here before we came. This is the privilege of the sculptor's art, this most enduring of the arts with its hint of eternity, to unite the ages, to reach a grateful hand to the past and a loving greeting to the future. In this work I send an affectionate message to all the little people to come." This interpretation was followed by an address by Dr. Frank W. Gunsaulus of Chicago, who had been introduced by ex-Vice-President, Adlai E. Stevenson, then a member of the Library Board. By a city ordinance of June 20, 1930, the Bloomington city council placed the charge, supervision, care and control of Withers Park in the hands of the Board of Directors of the Withers Library.

In 1911, the expiration of the lease of the Bloomington Club to the upper floors of the library building, brought a long sought opportunity, and on July 18, 1911, a plan for remodeling was made at an estimated cost of \$25,106.00. Work was begun and a new corner stone was placed October 12, 1911, with less ceremony than the former one of May 18, 1887. To raise the needed \$25,000, the Board found it necessary on January 27, 1912 to petition the City Council for assistance in securing the amount. The newly remodeled building was formally thrown open to the public May 8, 1912 with a public reception. Ashton's orchestra was located at the top of the stairway on the second floor and discoursed music throughout the evening. Over 1,000 people visited the library during the day and evening. Mrs. Sue A. Sanders, President of the Board, again presented the newly remodeled institution to the city fathers, as she had in 1894, when she implored the city to take over the library at the behest of the Library Association. This remodeling provided a newspaper and magazine room, a reading room, a staff and board room and an art gallery on second floor. On the first floor were the circulation department, the children's room, the cataloguing room, the librarian's office, a committee room, and rooms for government reports.

At the meeting of the City Council, as recorded in the Council Proceedings of May 14, 1915, ordinance #7 was passed which created a department, (under the supervision of the department of public affairs), to be known as the Board of Library Directors. This was when the commission form of government came into existence in the spring of 1915, and continued until it ceased in the spring of 1923. This ordinance provided for a Board of Library Directors, consisting of nine members, to be elected by the City Council upon the recommendation of the commissioner of public affairs. The first year, lots were drawn for determining the length of office and three new names appeared upon the list of directors, that of Mr. Spencer Ewing, Mr. A. K. Lundborg, Mrs. N. D. McKinney. From 1894 to date, the Board of Directors has consisted of nine members, appointed for three year terms by the mayor of the city.

During the first World War, many activities connected with the same, were held within library walls. In fact, for two years, such groups as the Red Cross, First Aid classes, Liberty Loan drives, Home Bureau and County Defense Council headquarters were centered there, the library also

serving as a clearing house for government information. During a part of this time the children's room was housed in the Art Room on the second floor, with Miss Marian Wallace as librarian, who contacted the schools of the city urging the children to visit the new room and use it as much as possible. During the tragic weeks of the influenza epidemic in the fall and winter of 1918, Miss Parham was instrumental in transforming part of Withers Public Library into a first aid station. These rooms were open day and night during the height of the epidemic. Here supplies were received and sent to sufferers in hospitals and private homes, nurses were secured and assigned, and every assistance given local health authorities.

In 1924 the state librarians held a convention in Bloomington which marked the 25th anniversary of Miss Parham's coming to the city. The Illinois Library Association convention had not met here since 1907 and it was considered highly fitting that the city should entertain the state librarians at this time. At the close of the session, resolutions were passed expressing gratitude to the city and citizens of Bloomington for many courtesies; in special to Miss Nellie Parham, city librarian, for her untiring zeal in behalf of the convention.

Some interesting figures concerning the library after a period of thirty years under city administration are worth noting. On March 1, 1894, the library contained but 13,577 books with 214 patrons listed and a circulation of 11,640 volumes. In 1924 there were 38,000 volumes, and about 13,000 patrons and a circulation of over 177,000. So the library progressed and became a part of community life. Serving the institution at the time was a staff of nine members.

It was soon discovered that the library had outgrown its building. Early in 1923, under the leadership of Spencer Ewing, President of the Board of Directors, an effort was made to secure a vote from the City Council for a new library at a cost of \$200,000. This having failed, in July of 1923, the City Council approved a plan of remodeling the building at a cost of \$45,000, no work having been done on the building since 1911. On the east side of the building several feet were added to the floor space by building a new wall outside the old. The exterior contour of the building was changed by straightening the round corners.

The work started in June of 1926 and was not completed until April of 1927. During all this time the building was never closed, despite the inconveniences. No room was left intact but the staff carried on, living in expectations of the day when a larger and more efficient library would be theirs. Even so, it was not expected that the remodeled library would care for the city's needs more than twenty years. At that time the etchings, presented to the library by Miss Laura McCurdy, were hung in the committee room at the north-east end of the first floor. These etchings, called the Nora H. McCurdy Memorial collection, had been given to the library by Miss McCurdy May 19, 1922, in memory of her mother, Nora H. McCurdy. Changes were also made in the Russell Art Gallery, now fitted for a more satisfactory gallery. Some years previous Mrs. N. P. Perry,

according to her will of April 17, 1892, had left the residue of her estate at the death of her husband, after the carrying out of certain other provisions, in trust for the following uses and purposes, namely, to establish, in connection with the Bloomington Library Association, "a suitable place where-in works of art will be preserved or exhibited for the advancement of education in art. The said art gallery shall be named the Russell Art Annex, or some suitable name or appellation of which the name Russell shall be a part, in commemoration of my mother, Rachel P. Russell." Over \$5,000 was received by the library in 1912 from the estate.

For some years the Woman's Club had an active art department, and in 1921, through the interest and enthusiasm of Mrs. Guy McCurdy, who was President of the Woman's Club, sufficient strength and leadership was developed to permit their art department to make plans toward forming an art association. On March 14, 1922, a large number of art enthusiasts attended a meeting in the Russell Art Gallery and organized the Bloomington Art Association. This Association has furnished some excellent exhibitions hung in the Russell Art Gallery, has aroused a great interest in art in the twin cities, and with assistance from the Perry Art Fund, has aided the advancement of education in art.

Under the leadership of Miss Parham, the library continued to grow in influence, and became an institution with a staff, book circulation, and book collection, commendable to a city of this size. Miss Parham through her personality and ability became an active leader in community affairs, speaking before many city clubs and serving on many community committees. Mr. Spencer Ewing, who had served on the Board since 1915, continued to act as President, resigning from that office in October, 1949, thus serving continuously for thirty-four years.

One of Miss Parham's great interests was the children's room. In 1919 she secured the services of Miss Louise Kessler, a trained kindergarten teacher, then acting in that capacity at the local Day Nursery. Miss Kessler's training, her knowledge and love of children's literature, and her own skill in writing, have been great assets to the children's room where she still acts as children's librarian. Her services to the children and parents of this community over the years, cannot be estimated. She has never ceased in her efforts to present the very best in children's literature, and to encourage its enjoyment. Branch libraries, as mentioned earlier, had been established in the public schools with books supplied from the public library. For some years Miss Lucy Williams of the library staff carried on this special work in the schools and the Day Nursery. Later, these branches were supervised by Miss Kessler and her assistants, who visited the schools each week in order to circulate the books. In 1930, the library expansion program called for the use of a book wagon to distribute books to the schools and hospitals. This was to facilitate the transportation of books and to make more frequent changes in book supplies. At that time the library had ten active branches. Six schools, Irving, Bent, Washington, Lincoln, Emerson and Raymond, three hospitals, St. Joseph's, Mennonite and Brokaw and the Day Nursery. It was also a

hope that library service might be extended to county areas. The book-mobile service was carried on for several years within the city limits, but finally was discontinued because of expense and staff involved. In recent years, as the public school libraries were set up, the plan for carrying out this special service has changed, and book deposits of pleasure reading books were placed in the grade schools. In 1948 over 3,200 books were placed in the schools and individual teachers requested and took out units of study for their own rooms as needed. The services to the rural schools of the county has been another field of activity, for at one time as many as fifty-four rural school teachers were borrowing books from the library. Under the guidance of Miss Kessler many young people have been recruited and trained as library assistants, some of whom are today serving in library fields, one being Miss Beverlie Steele, on our own staff. Her gifts in the field of art are especially appreciated.

To enumerate the activities of the children's room over the years is almost impossible. They have included annual Book Week celebrations since 1919, when National Book Week was first established. These celebrations involve the purchasing of several hundred new books, the arrangement of book displays, public relations work with the schools, stores, newspapers and radio. Many novel and fascinating ideas have been used to carry out the special themes. Pageants, children's story hours, book fairs, reading courses, hobby shows, library tours for city and country school children, puppet shows, bookland bulletins, stories and verse written by Miss Kessler and published in the Pantagraph, have all been activities, carried out to lead the younger generation into a knowledge and love of good literature.

On November 4, 1948, a radio-phonograph combination was placed in the children's room, made possible by a gift from Mrs. Henry W. Holmes, given in memory of her mother, Mrs. A. B. Funk. Mrs. Funk had been a member of the Withers Library Board of Directors from 1894 to 1915 and served as President during the remodeling of the library building in 1898, when work with the children was first being emphasized. Mrs. Funk had also served as Vice-President of the Library Directors and was very active in the work of the Amateur Musical Club and the Bloomington Art Association. The gift of this radio-phonograph has allowed Miss Kessler to provide extra pleasure for the children in the matter of recordings and story hours.

From the early recognition of the special needs of children in 1898, the work has continued to grow until now the children's department includes a collection of over 8,343 volumes. The peak of juvenile circulation in thirty years of work was reached in the year 1947-1948: juvenile circulation for that period was 97,036 volumes, or 47.6% of entire library book circulation. The growth of school libraries will lessen the public library circulation from now on. In 1949 there were 3,430 juvenile borrowers. The circulation of children's books for that year was 85,839 volumes, or 46.2% of the total library book circulation, the detailed figures of which are: juvenile books circulated in the children's room, 50,000; in schools, 35,317; in hospitals, 359 and in Lake Library, 163.

Miss Kessler, especially gifted in writing, has furnished poetic themes for numerous library occasions. She has been a source of inspiration to many lovers of verse, through her series of poetry contests. The series of creative arts programs, originated and carried out by her, made many new friends for the library, as well as providing excellent displays. A member of the Pan Women of America, Miss Kessler has had many of her own literary compositions published, and has contributed many articles to educational and library publications as well. Recently she has served on the Personnel committee of the Illinois Library Association, membership on which has involved much time and research for the publication of the committee's findings. Its first study was concerned with the Retirement Program for Municipal Employees, with especial reference to Public Librarians. The second study is concerned with salary schedules of Public Libraries. Miss Kessler is also gathering material on the proposition of libraries in towns under 10,000 joining the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund by election. Under the present law they are unable to do so.

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Bloomington, Illinois as a city, Miss Kessler is compiling a book of original manuscripts written by citizens of Bloomington and Normal. The title of the book will be "Home Town in the Corn Belt - Memories of Bloomington-Normal from 1900-1950". This will furnish a very valuable contribution to the source material of the past fifty years.

During the years of Miss Parham's leadership, until her resignation in 1940, the library continued to expand. The years of the depression caused an unprecedented growth in circulation, but it also made necessary a new schedule of hours in 1933, because of needed economy and slashing of operating expenses. The problem of supplying the increased demand for reading material, in spite of reduced appropriations and without extra help, began to make itself felt very definitely, as it has continued to do so every year since, with the increased cost of operation.

Miss Parham's annual report in 1934 disclosed the fact that the work of the library has outdistanced the growth of the city in the last forty years. "In 1894 the population was 21,000; today, 1934, it is nearly 31,000. In 1894 there were some 10,000 books handled by a librarian and three assistants. The expenses were a little over \$7,000.00, more than half of the amount a payment on the building. Today, 1934, we occupy the entire building and our work branches out into six schools, three hospitals and the Day Nursery. We have 40,000 volumes, a librarian and ten full time assistants and a circulation of more than 300,000". The annual reports show continual growth and a desire to serve all the book needs of the community which now had branched out into many new fields. State Aid was granted to Withers Public Library, as well as to other cities in order to help the diminishing budgets. Beginning in 1935, the first allotment was \$1,546.00, the second in 1936, \$1,500.00.

Because of the increased work of the library, the staff continued to grow in numbers. In 1926 there were seven full time staff members and

two part time; in 1930 ten full time and two part time. In 1934, as Miss Parham had said in her report, the staff consisted of a librarian and ten full time assistants. She added that the work had trebled in thirty-five years, while the staff had only been doubled in size, and the annual appropriation was less than twice what it was in 1899, the smallest amount for library maintenance in twenty years. She continued to emphasize that the staff must be kept up to a high professional standard, saying that we cannot afford to economize in books or salaries, if our library is to hold its place in the community. The staff in 1938-1939 reached the number of twelve full time employees. From that time on the number has continued to drop until today there are only seven full time librarians. Since 1944, when Miss Margaret Shipp left, no one has been hired in the capacity of cataloguer. Insufficient revenue has made it impossible to employ a larger number of full time staff. The regular members are assisted by students from our schools and colleges. During all the years that the library has served the community, the yearly expenditures have never exceeded \$30,000, and have usually been considerably less. Very few other community institutions have a record of this kind. However it is hoped, that beginning with 1950, this may be remedied for the good of the public as well as the staff.

Over the years there have been many changes in the staff of the library. In 1931 Miss Thelma Van Ness became assistant librarian. Miss Van Ness had been employed in the local library when a student at Illinois Wesleyan University, and the year following her graduation in 1927. She attended the Illinois Library School at Champaign for one year, graduating in June of 1929. From September of 1929 to June, 1931, she was a member of the staff of Queensborough Public Library, New York City. During that time she continued her studies in the School of Library Service, Columbia University. She carried on further study in the summer of 1931, before accepting her position in the Bloomington library.

The loan desk, under capable direction, has continued to serve the varying and ever-changing needs of the public. Many have given years of service to the public over the front desk. One would wish to name them all. For thirteen years, Miss Helen Van Ness; for twelve years, Margaret Munce, and for ten years, Ruth Pils, rendered unusually competent and pleasing service. Many capable young people who were on the staff, have continued in the library profession. They include John Morrow, Chief, Acquisitions Branch, Army Library, Washington, D.C.; H. Vail Deale, Humanities Divisional Librarian, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa; Louise Stubblefield, Head of Circulation, Nicholas Murray Butler Library, Columbia University, New York; Joan Jarrett, Assistant Librarian, Illinois Wesleyan University Library; Charles Zoller, Supervisor, Engineering Library, McDonnell Aircraft Corporation, St. Louis; Helen Dooley, Assistant Librarian, Milner Library, Illinois State Normal University, Normal, Illinois.

Great efforts have been made to reach the public by all means of publicity, observances of Book Week since 1919 and Spring Book Festivals being important calendar events. There have been lively times such as the controversy over the public circulation of Steinbeck's "Grapes of

Wrath", a book which at the end of 1939 was considered the year's most outstanding book. New methods have been installed to simplify book records, such as a charging machine with a new type of card. It took a bit of education at this point, to make the public realize that they must present their cards, instead of expecting a desk attendant to know each individual by name. During the war years, great efforts were made to keep up with the vast range of demands. Victory book drives were carried on to care for the needs of soldiers and hundreds of questions, concerning the war, were answered for friends and parents of soldiers.

Numerous booklists have been given out from the loan desk to assist as well as to encourage reading in special fields. Special weeks and seasons have been recognized, such as Lent, when lists of religious books have been printed and circulated. Miss Frances Brennan, who joined the staff in 1941, has served, not only as head of the loan desk staff, but also as cataloguer, and has successfully, conscientiously and willingly carried on the duties that those positions involve. The other members of the regular staff, with student assistants, have all helped in carrying out the function of the library. Serving the public, aiding the public, and encouraging the public in their search for knowledge, have all been combined as a part of the library's function in our democratic world.

Publicity in the daily papers has long been recognized as an excellent medium for establishing contact with the public and of promoting interest in the library. Library events were recognized as social events in the early days and social functions, such as receptions, were held on a number of occasions to make the public feel welcome in their new institution. In later years, library news had been considered news, and appearing, usually in the Sunday edition, have been articles concerned particularly with new books or new items of interest in the library world. The use of the camera has added much to the library publicity that now appears in the pages of the Daily Pantagraph.

In the Library Notes of Illinois Libraries for July, 1923, was recorded the fact that in Bloomington, Illinois a radio set had been installed in the Art Room on the second floor of the public library where concerts were given for the public. This indicates an early recognition of this new field for libraries. The value of radio broadcasting was also recognized and in the very early days of radio broadcasting in Bloomington, from about 1934 on for several years, staff members participated in broadcasts, representing both the adult and juvenile departments. "What's News at the Library" was the headliner of one series of library broadcasts. Under the direction of Vail Deale, public relations were especially emphasized, and in the winter of 1939, a group of "Open House" evenings was arranged, based on music recordings, played on the new library radio-phonograph.

During the last fifty years the reference room has seen many changes. Before 1911 it was housed on the first floor in two rooms in the northeast

corner of the building, under the direction of Mrs. C. F. Kimball. Here was carried on, with great detail, the work of assisting the many literary clubs of the city, as well as the students. When the reference room was moved to the second floor, Mrs. Kimball, assisted by Miss Nelle Webb, continued to serve until 1920. Mrs. Kimball had given twenty-seven years to the service of the library that had been characterized by fine workmanship, such as the preparation of hundreds of bibliographies, the preservation of much historic material concerning the city, and the building of a collection of magazines and reference books which have become the basis of the present-day excellent reference collection. Miss Webb continued with cataloguing and other staff work until 1937.

In 1919, in the same year as Miss Kessler, Miss Elizabeth Abraham, a graduate of Northwestern University, became a member of the staff of the reference room, where she has continued to serve as reference librarian, since that time. In 1927, Miss Esther Morrison, having just graduated from Illinois Wesleyan, joined Miss Abraham in the reference department and the two have worked there together, with the assistance of other staff members and students, since that date.

Carrying out the example of their predecessors, they have continued to build up the reference department, until it now houses an excellent file of pamphlets, a picture collection of many thousand items, a clipping file, covering hundreds of subjects, among which are carefully preserved innumerable items concerning Bloomington. A file of clippings, not only of general, but more especially of local interest, was carefully gathered during World War II and served not only the immediate needs of the day, but will aid future historians. The organization of all these files has required hours of fine detail work. A special arrangement of career materials, together with an exhaustive index to the library collection of information on careers, has been a contribution carried out by the reference department for the benefit of the whole library.

To preserve the history of Withers Public Library and its staff, early records were searched. Assembled together with many printed articles, these are now gathered in library scrap books which give a graphic presentation of the history of the institution as well as of its personnel. The reference department has also assembled complete records of all the directors of the Library Board and of all the employees since 1894, when the institution became a city library. Notebooks have been kept giving data on our civic organizations, and on our city, state and national governments. Another example of a timely service is the collection of seed catalogues ordered every January for garden lovers.

Ever in mind of the needs of the community, the reference department has given service to the students of the public schools, the parochial schools, the universities and numerous clubs, aiding in the preparation and carrying out of their programs. The names of some of the clubs to whom regular assistance has been given include the Ariel, As You Like It, Castalian, Clio, College Alumni, Dozen, Four O'Clock, Friday Evening History, History, History and Art, Idlers, Longfellow, Normal History

Club, Normal Literary Center, Margaret Fuller, Philomathean, Lexington Tuesday Night Literary Club, and Lexington Woman's Club. This service has also extended beyond the borders of the county, and even the state.

Not only has the reference department emphasized the need of preserving essential materials, but it has chosen to furnish the most up-to-date information on the thousands of calls that have come to it during the course of the years, constantly enlarging the type of assistance that a reference department could render, as the recently added collection of some eighty-five telephone directories will testify. From the reference desk in the year of 1948-1949, 12,230 magazines, 32,020 pictures, 3,352 clippings and 2,202 pamphlets were circulated.

Many exhibits have been held in the reference room as part of Book Week. They have included The History of Printing, The History of Magazines, Scrap-Books, The Life of W. F. Goudy, Travel Tours, World War II, and McLean County Agricultural Products and Agricultural By-Products. For the latter exhibit in 1947, held the same year as the first Corn Bowl parade and game, they were assisted by corn and soybean producers in McLean and neighboring counties. One of the most outstanding exhibits was displayed in 1940 on the occasion of the 500th Anniversary of Printing, of particular interest to the members of this department because of their acquaintance with Frederic W. Goudy, the famous typographer. For several years previous to his death, Miss Abraham had corresponded with Mr. Goudy, wishing to maintain touch with this illustrious citizen, who had been born in Bloomington, Illinois. She had long hoped that some public recognition of this fact would be made by the citizens of the city. A picture of Mr. Goudy given by him to Miss Abraham is now in the library.

Miss Abraham and Miss Morrison have both shared in the church interests of the community. They have helped many church and religious organizations with suggestions, plans and materials for their various group programs. Miss Morrison has taken an active part in the Sunday School and church work of the Wesley Grace Methodist Church. Miss Abraham, with a special interest in world church and mission movements, has given many talks to clubs and religious groups. In 1947, she became chairman of the Dr. Leroy Yolton Memorial Fund which was set up to honor the memory of Dr. Leroy W. Yolton and to assist Miss Mary Marquis, serving as the first Dean of the College of Nursing, established in Silliman University, Philippine Islands. Miss Abraham contacted many organizations and individuals and a fund of \$5,300 was raised to be used for equipment, scholarships and books. As a result of her activities, the Dr. Leroy W. Yolton Memorial Library was established in the College of Nursing, with over 500 volumes gathered from nurses and friends over the United States. Having entertained the librarian of Silliman University in her home, she has become familiar with the needs of the main library as well, and is now gathering materials and books to assist in building up their book collections in other fields.

In 1940, Miss Nellie Parham's years as librarian came to a close,

after serving in the position continuously from 1899. At the request of the staff, the 1939 Annual Report was dedicated to Miss Parham, in honor of her fortieth year of service to her profession and to the community. This was printed in attractive form. Not only had Miss Parham performed many services for the library, making it a vital and progressive institution, but she had served the community exceedingly well. Through her initiative, the oil portrait of the former Vice-President, Adlai E. Stevenson was painted and hung in the library, now temporarily loaned by the Library Board of Directors to the grandson, Adlai E. Stevenson, the present Governor of Illinois. Hours of time, without compensation, were given by her to the cataloguing of the Illinois Wesleyan Library. She rendered service to many community boards, as the Day Nursery, Community Chest and Western Avenue Community Center.

Through the efforts of Miss Parham a library was established at East Bay Camp. The building was erected from money in the petty cash fund accumulated from sources such as fines, out-of-town cards and other incidental receipts, and was built with the help of federal aid. The name, Nellie E. Parham Branch, first suggested by Miss Kessler, was formally adopted by the Board of Directors on September 15, 1933, who expressed their sentiments in a resolution, stating that "this year, marking the thirty-fifth year of Miss Parham's service as librarian of Withers Public Library, the Board of Directors were desirous of making public recognition of the extraordinary value of her work both as librarian and member of the community by so naming the new branch." Since the camp library was established, members of the Withers Public Library staff, have assisted in manning it for weekly periods during the summer season. Books are taken from the library to aid the particular needs of each camp, and gift books serve as a permanent collection. The library has become an integral part of the camp, has served as an example for other camps, and has caused many campers to have an increased interest in library service upon return to their own communities. This library also serves the needs of Bloomington citizens residing in the lake area.

Miss Parham extended her influence and contributed her services to both the state and national library organizations, having served as President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer of the former association. On Miss Parham's retirement, the Illinois Library Association wrote in the resolutions committee report: "Another member of this association, and former president, has decided to retire from the serious responsibilities of the position of librarian of Withers Public Library, Bloomington, Illinois. For many years the name of Nellie E. Parham on an American Library Association or an Illinois Library Association program, has had the drawing power of a magnet for all librarians, who are acquainted with her sound judgement and her keen sense of humor. The resolutions committee is sure that it is the wish of this organization to send her congratulations, and to extend to her our appreciation of her professional services."

To those with whom Miss Parham was associated, she gave inspiring leadership in the practical as well as in the more scholarly aspects of

her chosen field. Illinois Wesleyan recognized this quality by giving her the degree of Doctor of Literature in 1936. Miss Parham's death occurred on July 12, 1945. Shortly after, a sketch of her life and work, written by Miss Abraham, was embodied by the Board of Directors in the records of their proceedings.

Miss Thelma Van Ness, assistant librarian since 1931, became librarian October, 1940. In the last ten years, Miss Van Ness, now Mrs. Frank L. Breen, has continued the policy of her predecessor, of service to the community. She has given hours of labor in carrying forward an institution which has had increasing difficulties because of insufficient revenue and a reduced staff of employees. The responsibility of carrying on during the war years has been hers, as well as the problems caused by a building now too small for its purpose. A reduction of full time staff members in 1944, from nine to seven, necessitated a change in the opening hours of the library, on Monday through Friday, to 10 o'clock. While the appearance of the library has been maintained by redecoration, some needed improvements, as lighting, have not been cared for, because of lack of sufficient revenue. While branch libraries, as such, have been discontinued, with the exception of East Bay, the library has continued to serve the three hospitals in our community, a project which was first considered in 1925 and has been carried on since that time, the visiting librarian circulating books at each hospital once a week. The library has been the meeting place for many community organizations, and their committees. To enumerate the hundreds of groups who have held their meetings in the library building is impossible. All these have made patrons more familiar with the library and its purpose. Mrs. Breen has done everything possible to meet the book needs of the community, and to make the library a friendly place of community service.

In 1944, the library celebrated its fiftieth anniversary as a public library, with suitable historic exhibits, tracing the development since 1856. Figures of circulation through the years, do not reflect the entire record of the library, as no statistics are available for reference service carried on within the building. But they do reflect some peak years when unemployment caused an accelerated circulation, and the schools were more dependent on the public library, and the library had more revenue for book purchases. Statistics are given for ten year periods, beginning with the year 1894, when the library was acquired by the city. Re-registration of borrowers is reflected in the number of borrowers in 1944.

Year	Books	Book Borrowers	Circulation
1894	13,577	214	11,640
1924	38,000	13,000	177,000
1934	46,534	19,435	322,726
1944	54,114	11,218	225,259
1949	54,283	16,163	203,710

Besides the gift of the Perry Art Fund, the library has been the recipient of other legacies. The wills of both Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Meyers

provided funds for works of art for Withers Public Library. Mrs. Henry W. Holmes of Cambridge, Massachusetts, also gave a gift of money to be used in some form as a memorial to her mother. Over the years, many valuable books have been given by individuals and groups, all helping to enlarge the library collection. Some examples are the I. N. Phillips collection of books on the life of Abraham Lincoln, the collection belonging to Miss Parham, and to the Crothers family. Some serve as memorials to individual members of organizations, some to soldiers and some to friends. For all of these, the library has been very grateful and it has provided a means of furnishing many books, not otherwise obtainable. Gifts of paintings and pictures have also added to the attractiveness of the library. Together with those of the Bloomington Art Association, the library now houses a fine collection of paintings. Gifts of recordings from individuals and groups interested in this new approach to public education, have enabled the library to begin the circulation of records. The experience of other libraries has shown how invaluable this work has become, providing a new medium for public service. Within a few years, with an interested public, a worthy collection can be assembled.

A high light of 1947 was the Book Fair put on co-operatively by interested civic groups, bookstores and libraries of both cities. Emphasizing, especially, the work of Illinois children's authors and illustrators, it brought to the city, for the day, many outstanding writers and artists who shared their experiences and fine gifts at meetings and luncheons. For this special occasion, exhibits were displayed in Wilner Library, the Art Center of Illinois Wesleyan University and Withers Public Library. The writings and books of McLean County authors were included in this exhibit.

In the spring of 1949, Withers Public Library was host to a regional meeting of the Illinois Library Association for a one day session. With the cooperation of the local libraries, officers of the Illinois Library Association, and local friends, an excellent program, as well as suitable entertainment, was provided for the guests.

Another outstanding event, in the library's history, was the winning of the city election in November, 1948, which granted to all municipal employees the right to become members of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, a most welcome result. To the winning of this election, the staff of the library devoted much time and energy.

Withers Public Library is fortunate to be in a community with two university libraries of such merit. To further the cooperation between them and our county public libraries, the McLean County Library Association was formed in 1940 in response to an invitation by Vail Deale, then a member of the staff of Withers Public Library. Quarterly meetings are held, which have provided a medium for excellent programs and further acquaintance with librarians of the county and state. Miss Elizabeth Abraham served as President of the group in 1940-1941 and 1941-1942, Miss Thelma Van Ness in 1943-1944, and Miss Esther Morrison in 1945-1946.

There have been outstanding events over the years that linger in the memory; the reception given for Miss Abraham and Miss Kessler in 1939 after twenty years of service each, in the children's and reference rooms respectively; the teas and receptions given in honor of local writers, Harold Sinclair, Grace Jewett Austin, Arthur Moore, Dr. Dewitt Jones and Bob Tucker; the Christmas tree of 1939 that carried the theme of the Singing Tree written by Miss Kessler; the Christmas tree of 1944 with wishes to G.I. Joe also written by Miss Kessler; her delightful "Over the Library Desk" sketches which appeared in the Chicago newspaper columns of June Provines at various times from 1940 to 1947; the appearance of staff members on Illinois Library Association programs; the rare privilege of attending an American Library Association convention; the staff dinners at the home of Miss Parham; the picnics and parties; the delightful romance and marriage of Helen Van Ness; the library romance of two staff members, Lorraine MacConaghie and John Morrow, carried on so secretly and so decorously, right in our midst, that we scarcely suspected it; the showers, the weddings, the war years, when several of our staff served in the Armed Forces at home and abroad; the party in honor of our faithful custodian and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. David Boone, on the occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary; the marriage of our head librarian, Miss Thelma Van Ness, to Rev. F. L. Breen; the gatherings of the Withers Library Alumni and the return of former staff members as proud parents. Marriage, birth and death have entered our ranks many times. All of these events serve to bring back a flood of memories of the many individuals, young and old, who have contributed their share to the carrying on of library service in this community. Over one hundred persons have been on the regular staff of the library since 1894, besides many part time assistants. They have endeavored to give service to the best of their ability. The present staff, exclusive of part time assistants, includes:

Mrs. Frank L. Breen	Librarian
Miss Frances Brennan	
Miss Beverlie Steele	Circulation
Miss Phyllis Rodman	Department
Miss Karin Larson	
Miss Louise Kessler	Children's Department
Miss Elizabeth Abraham	Reference
Miss Esther Morrison	Department
Miss Helen Dick	Hospital Branches
DeLoss McGuire	Custodian

Faithful custodians who have served in the last thirty years have been Dan Ebo, David Boone and DeLoss McGuire, whose contributions to the carrying out of library programs, have been most helpful and greatly appreciated.

No complete record can likewise be given without a mention of members of the Library Board of Directors who have given of their time for long periods of years. First among those of the later years must be listed Mr. Spencer Ewing, a member since 1915, president from 1922-1949 and now President-Emeritus. Mr. Ewing has seen the library through remodelings and redecorations, and has witnessed a growth in the library's program in spite of insufficient revenue. He has always stood ready to be of assistance to the librarian, and with his love of art and the beautiful, has been especially interested that the library be maintained in as good a condition as possible, and that it should serve as a center of culture, as well as education. Mr. Ewing has given several oil paintings to beautify the building and has been helpful in securing others for the library, as well as for the art association. Mr. Louis Williams now fills his place as president, at a time when the library is faced with problems of an inadequate budget, lack of space and such other problems as a growing institution may expect. With his legal training, his love of good literature, and his deep interest in book collecting, he is giving able leadership to the Board of Directors.

To some directors has fallen the task of faithfully recording the proceedings of the Library Board of Directors meetings for many years. Mr. Ralph DeMange has had the difficult assignment of treasurer since 1931 - to date, an assignment which has required the matching of income and expense with an insufficient revenue. Others have served on the Finance and Auditing, Library and Reading Room, and Building and Grounds Committees. The Board of Directors for the year 1950 follows and a complete list of directors since 1894 is appended.

The Board of Directors for the year 1950:

Mr. Spencer Ewing, President-Emeritus	Mr. Carl Vrooman
Mr. Ralph DeMange, Treasurer	Mr. Clark Stewart
Mr. Louis L. Williams, President	Mr. Al Ulbrich
Mr. Loring Merwin, Vice-President	
Miss Margie Twomey	
Mrs. Howard Brent, Secretary	

One could not conclude a resume of the library's history without mentioning the patrons. Many have become staunch friends. There has been the regular patron, the enthusiastic patron, the intellectual patron, the diligent patron, the stimulating patron, the thankful patron, the annoying patron, the wayward patron, and the wayfaring patron. All these have made up the pattern on the other side of the desk. There are those who very thoughtfully have remembered us throughout the year, and at the Christmas season, with flowers and plants to make our library more attractive, and with ambrosia for our tea room; others have assisted our various programs with talks, music, story-telling, entertainments, moving pictures, slides and exhibits; still others have given words of praise for continued assistance. For all these we are especially grateful.

The staff of Withers Public Library will continue to serve the public to the best of its ability, because of a tradition inculcated throughout the years, a tradition of worthy service to our community.

Presidents of the Board of Directors, 1886 - 1944

Pres. Mrs. Sam A. Sanders	1886-1887
Pres. Mrs. A. B. Jones	1887-1888
Pres. W. L. Graham	1888-1889
Pres. M. J. Spencer	1889-1890
Pres. A. B. Blackford	1890-1891
Pres. J. B. Nelson	1891-1892, 1895-96
Pres. W. L. Graham	1893-1894, 1896-97
Pres. L. B. Jones	1898-1899
Pres. Mrs. Sam A. Sanders	1900-1901
Pres. John T. Lillard	1901-1902, 1904-05
Pres. A. B. Stevenson	1903-1904
Pres. John T. Lillard	1905-1906
Pres. Mrs. Sam A. Sanders	1908-1909, 1912-13 1913-1914, 1916-17

*Commissioners of the Board of Directors
REORGANIZATION OF BOARD*

Pres. Mrs. Sam A. Sanders	1918-1919, 1921-22 1923-24, 1925-26 1928-29, 1930-31 1932-33
Pres. Eugene W. Wray	1934-1935
Pres. John T. Lillard	1936-

WITHERS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Presidents of the Board of Directors, 1894 - date

Pres. Mrs. Sue A. Sanders	1894-5; 1895-6; 1896-7
Pres. Mrs. A. B. Funk	1897-1898
Pres. R. O. Graham	1898-1899
Pres. H. D. Spencer	1899-1900
Pres. J. M. Shackford	1900-1901
Pres. J. B. Holmes	1901-1902; 1902-3
Pres. J. J. Condon	1903-1904; 1904-5
Pres. C. W. Klemm	1905-1906
Pres. Mrs. Sue A. Sanders	1906-1907
Pres. John T. Lillard	1907-1908; 1908-9
Pres. A. E. Stevenson	1909-1910
Pres. John T. Lillard	1910-1911
Pres. Mrs. Sue A. Sanders	1911-1912; 1912-13 1913-1914; 1914-15

Commission form of Government REORGANIZATION OF BOARD

Pres. Mrs. Sue A. Sanders	1915-1916; 1916-17 1917-1918; 1918-19 1919-1920; 1920-21 1921-22
Pres. Spencer Ewing	1922-1949
Pres. Louis L. Williams	1949-

WITHERS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Members of the Board of Directors

1894-date

Agle, Charles F. J.	1925-1949
Alexander, J. F.	1915-1919
Alexander, W. D.	1930-1942
Austin, Mrs. Grace J.	1922-1946
Bach, Mrs. William R.	1911-1921
Brent, Mrs. Howard	1949-
Coleman, P. W.	1912-1925
Collins, Len H.	1903-1908
Condon, J. J.	1899-1912
Deffange, Ralph C.	1931-
Dickinson, Elida	1919-1920
Dolan, Alonse	1912-1915
Ewing, Spencer	1915-
Fenelon, Dr. J. H.	1896-1897
Funk, Mrs. A. B.	1894-1915
Graham, R. O.	1894-1911
Harber, B. F.	1912-1915
Harber, E. D.	1900-1903
Hoblitt, Harris K.	1921-1935
Holmes, Joseph B.	1894-1906
Hoopes, B. F.	1894-1899
Kleam, C. W.	1904-1907
Lillard, John T.	1902-1915
Livingston, A. L.	1907-1910
Livingston, Isaac	1901-1904
Lundborg, A. K.	1915-1920
Mannheimer, Dr. L.	1907-1907
McKinney, Mrs. N. D.	1915-1925
Merwin, Loring C.	1946-
Messing, A. J.	1910-1913
Monroe, Mrs. George	1925-1949
Oberkoetter, Frank	1916-1919
Phillips, I. N.	1909-1912
Regan, John H.	1894-1896
Rhodes, Dr. O. M.	1920-1930
Robinson, S. P.	1894-1900
Rodgers, J. W., Jr.	1911-1916
Sanders, Mrs. Sue A.	1894-1922
Shackford, James M.	1894-1901
Smith, J. Whitefield	1906-1907
" " "	1919-1939
Soper, Horace A.	1921-1930
Spencer, Henry D.	1894-1911
Stevenson, A. E.	1907-1912

WITHERS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Members of the Board of Directors

1894-date

(Continued)

Stewart, Clark E.	1925-
Sweeney, Edward P.	1897-1899
Twomey, Margie	1949-
Ulbrich, Al A.	1939-
Ulbrich, H. W.	1915-1916
Vandervort, Dr. F. C.	1921-1925
Vrooman, Carl	1935-
Webb, Charles F.	1899-1902
Weldon, L. H.	1914-1915
Whitmer, Ira	1916-1921
Williams, Louis L.	1942-

WITHERS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Former Staff Members Residing in Bloomington, Illinois

Mrs. Glenn Campbell (Margaret Munce)

Olive Craig

Mrs. Frank Deneen (Mary Sullivan)

Helen Dooley

Mrs. H. P. Gardner (Emelie Clark)

Mrs. Emmet Gunn (Frances Mitchell)

Joan Jarrett

P. C. Kurtz

Dorothy Lee

Mrs. Kirk Leonard (Ruth Pills)

Mrs. L. N. McTurnan (Alice Light)

Mrs. Mabel Moore (Mabel Ward)

Margaret Noble

Mrs. Lyle Peckmann (Frances Florance)

Mrs. James Ross (Evora O'Brien)

Mary Rozum

Mrs. Laurence Rust (Mary Franklin)

Elsa Schilling

Mrs. Ewald Schlenker (Alice McCarty)

Mrs. Lee Sherrill (Mabel Whittington)

Margie Twomey

Lucy Williams

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF ELIZABETH ABRAHAM,
AUTHOR OF THE LIBRARY HISTORY

The minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors for March 28, 1919 had this to say, "It is recommended that Miss Abraham be retained for at least the next two months." Those two months have now extended into thirty-one years. I do not recall exactly what prompted me to go into the library to apply for a position. I had graduated from Northwestern University, with an A.B. degree, but for several reasons did not wish to go into the teaching field. Coming from a family always interested in literature and books, it was very natural that I should turn to the public library. I was born in Fogo, Newfoundland of parents of Canadian, Scotch and English ancestry. On my mother's side were educators and ministers; on my father's side, merchants and missionaries.

I came with my parents from Newfoundland to the Mid-West, where my father served in several pastorates as a Presbyterian clergyman, one of them being in Normal, Illinois. Here we were living when I first became a member of the staff of Withers Public Library. I am a member of the Normal History Club as was my mother before me, and of the Garden Club and have always enjoyed having plants and flowers in the library. My church membership is in the Second Presbyterian church where I have served as deacon, as Benevolence Treasurer of the Bible School and Youth Budget since 1941, and as chairman of the Dr. Leroy W. Yolton Memorial Fund.

Because of the world interests of my entire family, it has been very easy for me to think in world terms, which have come to play a great part in modern thought. Travel over our own country and abroad has been another form of education. These things have all been of great assistance to me in daily work in the library.

It has given me great pleasure and satisfaction to serve the public for thirty-one years.

Elizabeth G. Abraham

Reference Librarian

A PAGEANT OF CHRISTMAS TREES

by

Clara Louise Kessler

A PAGEANT OF CHRISTMAS TREES

By

Clara Louise Kessler

In that faraway Land of Memory, the cheerful ghosts of all our library Christmas trees glow again for me. I can see them all--a shining tree to commemorate each Christmas season on the road to yesterday. Long before the term Public Relations loomed on the library horizon, our Christmas trees each December helped to foster friendliness and interest among our patrons.

Christmas in the library! Early in December our particular book sanctum lays aside its cloak of dignity to shine forth in new holiday garb--festive and gay. That indefinable bookish odor is swept away by a host of Christmas-y smells and sounds. The usual nose-in-book attitude is neglected, and instead good natured glances dart about the room, and laughter and exclamations fill the habitual quiet atmosphere.

Our staff members start weeks in advance of the holiday season to plan the Christmas decorations, cheerfully contributing many hours of preparatory work. Shall I ever forget the year young Ruth and Margaret offered to make giant wreaths for the windows? The brick floor of the large furnace room was piled high with pine branches, and for days our two

youngest staff members sat in the midst of the green savory stuff, their beautifully manicured hands black with sticky pitch and pricked with countless needles. They kept Dan, the janitor, busy chopping twigs and cutting lengths of wire, but they were determined to make those giant wreaths, and they did! We were all proud of their handwork even if the results were a bit wobbly and needed frequent first aid.

The jolliest Christmas tree to my recollection was the one we trimmed in 1938. When our patrons entered the library they were met with the spicy fragrance of evergreens and the tantalizing odor of popcorn and apples. The tall green tree was strung with yards and yards of snowy popcorn and bright cranberries. Here and there a gingerbread man straddled pine branches, and red apples and gilded walnuts glittered as they hung from the tree. Best of all, tallow candles in red, yellow, blue and green, in their old-fashioned tin holders, tried to stand proudly erect on the sloping branches. Not lighted, of course, because of the new-fashioned awareness of fire hazards, but at least very much in the old-fashioned spirit. The window panes in the library were adorned with realistic ice and bordered with long sprays of American pine. That was a Christmas season to remember!

I believe it was midway between the two wars that we had our Singing Tree, the title lovingly bestowed to honor the book of the same name by Kate Seredy. Surely no other Christmas tree was trimmed quite like this one. Our reference librarians supplied us with a description of the Christmas customs of other lands, and symbols of those customs were borrowed or concocted by our ingenious younger staff members and placed upon the tree--a Creche for Italy, wooden shoes for Holland, a sheaf of wheat for Russia, a miniature Yule log for England, etc. That was the year we made many yards of four-inch panels of red cardboard, on which we copied with white ink the music score and lyrics of all the old familiar carols from different countries. These "singing panels" were placed along the tops of the bookcases to make a colorful contribution to the Christmas theme. The following verse was hand-lettered on a background of red cardboard, and placed beside the tree.

THE SINGING TREE

The singing tree--the soldiers called it that--
Bravely grew upon a ravaged battlefield,
The only living tree in all the countryside.
And there the birds found sanctuary.
Birds, small and large, both friend and foe
Came there at night. And in the dawn
The soldiers heard them singing, singing. . .
And so they called the tree--the singing tree.

America might well be called a Singing Tree
For friend and foe alike among mankind
Have found a haven here.

And as a symbol of America
This Christmas tree was made into a Singing Tree,
For Christmas comes to all the world
And music is a universal language.
So, here you see adorned with varied fruit
Bequeathed to us from many foreign lands,
Our tree of peace--our Singing Tree!
--C. L. K.

A strange thing happened to our 1940 Christmas tree. It was a beautiful evergreen from Nova Scotia, the tallest tree ever brought into the library. In the midst of the war in Europe we determined to make this a peace tree, and we trimmed it all in white. Long white streamers hung from each green branch, with a gleaming white star of peace at the top. The theme poem was copied in gold ink on a large sheet of white cardboard and placed beside the tree.

CHRISTMAS TREE--1940

Once I was a tree that grew in fertile soil
And knew the feel of wind and sun and rain.
Now I am a Christmas tree with numbered days of glory,
Now I am Christ's tree, and now may speak. . . .
O, rain, weep, weep for a troubled Christmastide!
Weep for the shattered homes and tortured hearts
of human-kind.
O, sun, bring warmth into this world of hate,
Bring light into this darkness of despair.
O, wind, as you go questing through the lands
across the sea,
Sing the song you've known these thousand years;
Carry my message through the whole wide world
Of "Peace on earth, good will toward men."

That night before locking the doors of the library we gazed in admiration at the loveliest tree we had ever trimmed. But a strange occurrence happened overnight. When we opened the library the next morning we found that our tree of peace had really begun to weep. The needles were slowly falling with an eerie, slithering sound on the hard wood floor. Drip, drip, drip! All day long the needles fell, and the librarians shivered at the dismal sound. Drip, drip, drip--all day and night, and all the next day the tree wept. When we opened the doors on the third morning we saw a tragic sight--a skeleton tree with the white streamers hanging limp and gaunt from the starkly bare branches. Of course, we replaced the tree immediately with another one, but we will never forget our Christmas tree that wept for peace!

Our library had a Wishing Tree in 1944. It was trimmed in cellophane streamers, colored bubble balls and golden wings.

The wings, made of gold paper, were shaped like bird wings, and represented wishes for G. I. Joes all over the world. The poem placed beside the tree stated the theme:

LIBRARY CHRISTMAS TREE--1944

Our tree, this year, is a Wishing Tree--
A Wishing Tree for G. I. Joe.
East, south, north, west, like golden wings
On the breast of the winds, our wishes blow.

Each wish is a word--and some are brave
That march like soldiers across the sea;
Some are joyous and some are proud.
Spoken--they reach to eternity.

We, the librarians, are guardians of words.
We know their power in song and story.
So we send to each Joe in the whole wide world
One word of comfort, one word of glory!
--C. L. K.

Thus, the wings headed for all the boys who were prisoners of war carried the word, Hope; those headed to boys in battle, Prayer; those to all buried beneath the rock at Corregidor, Immortality; those to all in the air, Happy Landing; to all at sea, Good Voyage; and to all in lifeboats, Faith. The winged wishes were directed to all points touched by the war, bearing patience to the hospitals, joy to all G. I. Joes at home, and fortitude to all in desperate straits. One pair of wings was directed to all Joes everywhere: It's wish was "Peace."

Last year, several weeks before Christmas, I invited all the school children of Bloomington to send to the library the names of their brothers and fathers who were in the service. Five hundred and fifty names were received, and for each name my student assistants made a small blue star on which I lettered the soldier's name and rank in white ink. The reference librarians furnished me with the names of one hundred and fifty soldiers of McLean County who had died during the war. For these we made gold stars.

Perhaps this was the most dramatic tree we ever had, the blue and gold stars hung on a pure white tree. Many visitors came into the library to view this tree dedicated to the men who helped to win the war. Quite a number of soldiers home on leave, were brought into the library to see their own star on the tree, and after New Year's Day, many children called for the service stars to send to their owners still stationed in foreign lands. The theme poem follows:

LIBRARY CHRISTMAS TREE--1945

I am a Christmas Tree! High, high
The Star of Peace I hold--
And cradled in my branches lie
The service stars of blue and gold.

O, Star of Peace, well do I know
These smaller stars of gold and blue.
Combine their sacrificial glow
To beam illustriously in you.

So proudly, thankfully I shine
A glorious Christmas tree--Christ's tree.
O, Star, no symbol more divine
Have I upheld since Calvary.

---C. L. K.

Thus each year the Withers Public Library takes pride
in offering its patrons a Christmas tree unique in theme
and decoration.

WITHERS LIBRARY

In this kingdom of books - limitless realm,
Great minds of the ages are holding sway;
There's no royal aloofness amongst them,
And Shakespeare rubs shoulders with Thackeray;
Balzac, Scott, Ibsen, Tolstoy, Yeats and Frost;
Romancer, poet, playwright, humorist, sage -
They welcome all who come, and at no cost
Offer their treasures of the printed page.

Noisy clamors of street are left behind,
Once past the portal in calm atmosphere;
Where authors, row on row on shelving lined,
From between covers expectantly peer;
Ready to step down, greeting a new friend,
Go home with him - his pleasure to attend.

James Hart

AN EXPERIMENT IN POETRY

by

Clara Louise Kessler

AN EXPERIMENT IN POETRY

By

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If Richard had not strolled into the children's room of the public library one day about five years ago, I would not have written that poem about him. If I had not written the poem, I would not have started on May 1, 1942, a poetry corner in the library where I am children's librarian. And without the poetry corner, eight hundred and fifty poems composed by residents of central Illinois would not have been entered in eighty-five library poetry contests. So Richard, you see, was the cause of this experiment in poetry.

Richard, that day five years ago, was a modern Huckleberry Finn, with a shock of straw colored hair pinch-hitting for the straw hat. Richard was a ragamuffin, but a very genial, loquacious ragamuffin. He leaned on my desk, there in the children's room, and chatted about the books he had read.

"As for me," he finally said, his eyes scanning the shelves around the room, and resting on the signs "Literature" and "Poetry," "I like books about literature and poetry best."

He lifted his elbow from the desk, straightened the kinks out of his back and moved over to the shelves. With the unerring instinct that children so often show in choosing the books that belong to their tastes and inclination, he took from the shelf Carl Sandburg's "Early Moon" and sat down at a table with his back to me. A comfortable silence fell on the cheerful room.

Well, I felt it coming--the old familiar urge to grasp this moment close--to sense each bit of color, each bit of action, each bit of speech during Richard's visit in order, later, to write it down. There are special moments in life--something always tells you--and this was one of them. At home, innumerable boxes on closet shelves, and manila envelopes in desk drawers are stuffed with just such moments translated into words. So that evening, I found paper and pencil and placed my memories of Richard's visit on paper in the following manner:

OVER THE LIBRARY DESK

He stood before my desk
And said in certain tones,
"As for me, I like books of poetry best,"
Then strode to shelves marked thus,
Selected Carl Sandburg's "Early Moon"
And sat at a table and commenced to read.
Oh, Mr. Sandburg, a homely boy
With only threadbare shirt and pants upon
his skinny form
Took your dreams and made them his.
You spoke a language he could understand.
Your words drew vivid pictures in his mind.
Twice he brought the book to my desk
To show two favorites.
I read aloud--about She-caw-go,
And how the washerwomen, like his mother,
Built the Woolworth Building with their
dimes and nickels.
In that half hour, your poems launched a
lifetime's memory
Of beauty--intangible as steel.
And when he left the library
Young Richard held securely underneath
his arm--
His property for two full weeks--
Your "Early Moon," your "Rootabage
Stories"
And greatest one of all --"Abe Lincoln
Grows up."
Oh, Mr. Sandburg, Richard is a friend of
yours.

It wasn't a poem and it wasn't prose, and I tucked it away in my desk. Coming across it several months later, I typed it, and, on an impulse, sent it to a famous columnist on a Chicago newspaper.

Then came December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor and war, and as every other American throughout the country was thinking, I wondered, "What can I do to help?" Books, I knew, were weapons on the home front. Our library would provide hundreds

of technical, historical, sociological and travel books to satisfy the needs of our patrons, but I wanted to provide something else--something special.

"Everything is being torn down," I thought. "Everything is destruction and death, ugliness and hate. If this library could only create a little beauty in the lives of its patrons to offset the horrors of war, it would help, perhaps, a little bit."

On December 18, 1941, I opened my Chicago paper and reading my favorite column found Richard's poem brave in print. It was the answer to my question. Poetry! Original poetry! Here in the heart of the unromantic Corn Belt, perhaps I could find other people who liked to paint pictures with words. I thought of the lonely farm houses on the wide prairie, the small villages and towns surrounding Bloomington and wondered how many other people like myself, hoarded fragments of verse and poetry in hidden places.

"I'll start a poetry corner," I decided. And on May 1, 1942 I timidly started the first poetry contest in our library. Ten original poems were placed on a bulletin board in a corner of the main room. A shelf beneath the poems held a small ballot box and ballots, and patrons were invited to vote for three of the poems. The result was astonishing. Thirty, forty, sometimes fifty ballots were collected at the close of each contest, and many people read the poems even though they did not vote. Both the city newspaper and the local radio station announced the names of the winners. The winning poems were displayed in the poetry corner and their authors awarded a blue ribbon for first place; red ribbon, second place; and white ribbon, third place.

I had decided to start a new contest on the first and the fifteenth of each month, including ten poems in each contest. Then I began to wonder how long I would receive that quota of ten poems twice a month. After the first few contests I ceased to worry. Before the opening date of each contest there appeared, as if by magic, ten poems; sometimes a few more, but never less than ten. I remember one time when on the day before the contest only eight poems had been received. On the early morning mail next day two letters arrived, each enclosing a poem from an out-of-town contributor.

During the first contests, I was delighted to notice that a member of our library board, Mr. Louis L. Williams, was voting in the contest. Mr. Williams, an attorney, is a member of the Bloomington Passion Players, having taken the part of Judas for seventeen years. He is a collector of rare books and first editions, including Poe, Herman Melville and John Steinbeck collections, and owns about forty editions of

the "Kasidah," an Oriental poem by Sir Richard F. Burton. As I scanned Mr. Williams' ballot each time, I was dismayed to notice that the poems for which he voted seldom received a ribbon award. I realized that the choice of the public very often did not include the most literary contributions.

In October, 1942, therefore, three judges were chosen to vote on the poems, and gold ribbon prizes were awarded for literary merit. Mr. Williams consented to perform this task, as did Miss Esther Vinson, English Department, Illinois State Normal University, and Dr. W. E. Schultz, head of the English Department of Illinois Wesleyan University. For over two years these three continued to judge the library contests. Later, Miss Margaret Lawrence, assistant librarian of Milner Library, Normal University joined the board of judges. The popular vote and the judges' vote made interesting contrast.

When, in 1943, the poems were broadcast each week over the Bloomington radio station WJBC, the library received contributions from out-of-town residents. Shy and appreciative letters accompanied the poems. One letter stopped all my private grumbling about the amount of work it took to prepare the poems for the poetry corner, the radio and the judges. "My gratitude," her letter said, "for the joy you have given me and mine is indeed deeply felt. Once upon a time, letters came to me filled with the heart hunger and the poetic dreaming of people I did not know by sight--and my life was so enriched by the privilege--that it gave me a light to carry in dark days. You will know by your gift of this poetry program, and your own poetic insight, what a rare privilege it is, in these troubled times, to be a woman with a 'lantern in her hand.' "

A young Jewish soldier, stationed in Bloomington for several months to attend the Mid-West Trades Institute, became a regular contributor. After he left Bloomington, his poems still continued to come to the library. From North Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia and Texas this young soldier sent his poems. To quote from one of his letters--"Enclosed find a poem for the next contest. I am amazed over the fact that I am contributing so soon again. Thank you for your kind letter and the ribbon. I think the second place in the judges' estimation was a bit too flattering. . . . Your poetry endeavor seems to be bearing wonderful fruits. Congratulations. I think it very noble to you to crusade for poetry and make such a successful attempt to stamp it in the hearts of the public at large. Do continue to expand upon the idea. Surely notable success must be born from such sincere application to so worth while an interest. . . . Of course, I desire to have you continue my anonymity--so far as my military affiliations are concerned." This young man is now a lieutenant.

Many interesting personalities were among our contestants.

The oldest is eight-seven years of age, the youngest, sixteen. One elderly gentleman is totally blind and lives alone in a four room house. One young woman has composed over two hundred sonnets. Of all the hundreds of amateur poems that have been entered in the contests, perhaps the one best remembered was written by Miss Alice Lester of Lewistown, Illinois.

HOARDING

He saved fleet flame of sunsets for his fire;
Filled his small lamp with star-shine,
 turned it low;
Drank deep of April's waywardness, and
 sought
Bright gold where daffodils had braved late
 snow.
Painted a picture with a rainbow's tints;
Walked by an apple orchard in the spring,
And--drenched through all his being with
 its scent--
At harvest time returned, remembering,
Caught as it fell a maple's scarlet coat;
Caged in his heart the redbird's song--
 "What cheer"
Then well content beside his blazing hearth,
Wondered at those who found the winter
 drear.

In a roundabout way, I heard of a young colored woman who wrote poetry. Soon Mrs. Oralee Brown Harris of Hot Springs, Arkansas, was a regular contributor to our contest. Here are two of her poems--

NEGRO FOLK SONG

When God gave us
The gift of song,
He made our hearts
Forever strong.
For every hour
We must be sad,
A song is born
To make us glad.

TO YOU

You are my cathedral.
I come to you
With my sorrows,
Thanksgiving and prayers.
You are my hills.
I come to you
For understanding and inspiration

And to be nearer the stars.
You are my valley.
I come to you and remember common
things--
Dusty roads, brown nuts in autumn,
And wild flowers in the evening.
You are my friend.
I come to you
And hold God's hand in mine.

Still the poems came from all over the Illinois Corn Belt; one year, two years, three years -- yes, almost four years the contests continued, and always on the first and fifteenth of the month there were ten new poems to place in the poetry corner. However, when peace came, we decided to bring our adventure in poetry to an end. On January 1, 1946, the library presented its final contest. Three great scrapbooks filled to bursting with letters from contributors are all that remain to remind me of this library war-time activity.

But now I know there is poetry in the hearts of American people. The eight hundred and fifty poems that came from the Illinois prairies prove it.

McLEAN COUNTY HOME BUREAU

by

Clara R. Brian

The first meeting was held in the month of January, 1917. It was opened by Mrs. Ewing, who presented a report on the progress of the work of the McLean County Home Bureau since its organization in 1915. She also presented a report on the work of the McLean County Home Bureau since its organization in 1915.

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The McLean County Home Bureau, formerly known as the McLean County Home Improvement Association, was organized during the first World War. To Mrs. Spencer Ewing, 1706 E. Washington Street, should go much of the credit for successfully launching this far-reaching educational organization for rural women.

Mrs. Ewing was a member of the state Food Conservation Committee in 1917. Miss Isabel Bevier, head of the Home Economics Department of the University of Illinois, was chairman of the committee. Mrs. Ewing found out, through Miss Bevier, that the Smith-Lever Bill made it possible for a county to have the services of a trained home economist. This bill, passed by Congress about 1915, gave to the agricultural colleges of the nation a sum of money, the amount to vary according to the rural population of the state. The sum of fifteen hundred dollars would be given to every county which would raise a like sum. The federal appropriation would be applied on the salary of a trained home economist. Several counties in Illinois were in the process of forming an organization, but no definite program of procedure had been made and the university had no suggestions.

Mrs. Ewing worked on the theory that one dollar membership dues was within the price range of every homemaker. It would be necessary for the county to raise the sum of fifteen hundred dollars to match the federal sum. Since there are thirty townships in the county, the money could be secured if each township signed up fifty members at one dollar per member.

There was no organized group of women to start the work. After much thinking and discussion of the subjects, it was decided to call a meeting to see what could be done.

The first meeting was held in the court house in September, 1917. It was opened to any woman in the county interested in forming a Home Improvement Association for rural women. Women were present from all parts of the county. Mrs. Ewing explained the purpose of the organization, answered many questions, and told something about the work to be done before the educational program could be started. The women were interested and it was decided to carry the information back to their neighbors and see how many members could be secured. It would be necessary to select a woman in each township to be responsible for the survey. Mrs. Ewing spent much time and hard work in securing these key women. She visited various communities in the county and finally succeeded in getting the cooperation of women in each of the thirty townships. Then followed weeks of intensive work and many meetings. It was necessary to convince the prospective members that an educational program on homemaking would be of real help to them. The attitude of many women was expressed by one, who said, "I don't want any strange woman snoopin' 'round my kitchen, telling me what to do." After they had been convinced that no one would come to their home except by invitation, the final success of the work was much more encouraging.

The work of contacting prospective members continued through the winter and early spring months. By April, 1918, enough members had been secured to assure the completion of the organization. At the April meeting, Mrs. Ewing was elected president of the county association. It was voted to secure the services of a home adviser, someone recommended by the State Leader of the Home Economics Extension Department of the University of Illinois. This person must have a degree in home economics and be willing to travel the county in the interest of better homemaking through a home economics educational program.

One April morning in 1918 in Salina, Kansas, where I was teaching home economics in Kansas Wesleyan University, I received a letter. This letter was from Miss Mamie Bunch, State Leader of Home Economics Extension work for the University of Illinois, and requested me to report to her at the university the next week end for an interview for the position of home adviser in Livingston County, Illinois. This was during the first World War. We were teaching six days a week at the university in order to close school by May 1. By that time the wheat crop would be ready to harvest. The college boys would be needed to help harvest the grain and I could not leave until school was out. A letter of explanation to Miss Bunch brought back the reply that I should finish the work I was doing, then come to see her; that McLean County would be ready for an adviser by that time, and she would just as soon send me to McLean County as to Livingston County. My credentials were sent on to the University of Illinois.

On May 3, I met with Miss Bunch at the Home Economics Extension office in Urbana. After the usual questions had been asked and answered, Miss Bunch said she would recommend me to the McLean County Home Improvement Association Board, but advised me not to start the new work until I

had a month's rest.

Coming back to Bloomington, on my way home from the University to San Jose, Illinois, I met some of the board members in Mrs. Ewing's office in the First National Bank Building. Besides Mrs. Ewing, I met Mrs. Homer R. Johnson, Mrs. Allin Brown, Mrs. Frank W. Benjamin, Mrs. Eugene Funk Sr., Mrs. Sam Elkins, Mrs. Simon Moon, and Mrs. Oren Clark--a very gracious group of women who, with many others, were responsible for the beginning of extension work in the county. They did not give me an answer that day but, a few days later, a letter from Mrs. Ewing stated that I had been employed as their home adviser.

Saturday morning, June 1, 1918, I started work as home adviser of the McLean County Home Improvement Association. There were two small desks and three chairs in the front reception room of the Farm Bureau and the Association of Commerce. This room was on the second floor of the old Durley Building, corner of Main and Jefferson Streets. Mr. Dave Thompson, farm adviser, and Mr. Heber Hudson, secretary of the Association of Commerce, were most helpful to the new organization.

During the first weeks of the work, members volunteered their services as secretaries; then a trained secretary was employed half-time. There were no projects started, no program, and no plan of work. We soon recognized the fact that, if the organization was to fulfill its mission of extending Home Economics Extension education, it would be necessary to take the information to the people. This could best be done by holding meetings in the various communities. Not having a schedule to follow, the only thing to do was to make one by going to the various townships as they were ready with a place and time for having a meeting.

Mount Hope Township was first to request a meeting. Wednesday, June 5, I gave my first lesson and demonstration at McLean and, for the past thirty-two years, Mount Hope Township has continued to have an extension program meeting on the first Wednesday of each month.

Due to the war, there was a restriction on the use of wheat flour. The homemakers were having a difficult time making bread from the substitutes. The first lessons given by the adviser were on wheatless breads or the use of the substitutes in bread making. This was an opportune time to begin the Home Economics Extension program. Help was coming to them when it was badly needed.

The organization was to furnish transportation. If the place of meeting could not be reached by train or traction service, one of the members would come to Bloomington and take the adviser to the meeting and another would bring her home.

The Kiwanis Club came to the aid of the organization and purchased the first car used in the work. The adviser did not know how to drive a car but, after an hour of instruction by a demonstrator, she was ready for the first trip in the new car.

Monday, July 15, was a memorable day. The meeting place was Bellflower--thirty-five miles away. There were no paved roads--just dirt. The county tuberculosis nurse, Mrs. Earl Cooper, went with me. The car was a Ford Coupe, 1918 model. With fear and trembling, we started on our journey to the southeast corner of the county. We hadn't gone far until it started to rain. The top was down! It had to come up! The shower was soon over; then we came to a part of the road under construction and a bridge was not there! It was necessary to drive down a steep embankment and up on the other side. Impossible? How did we know until we tried. Down and up without mishap, with perhaps a little more confidence in driving ability. A little more driving and we were at Bellflower. Meeting over, ready to start to Bloomington, but the car would not start. A man came, by request, from the garage, gave a few whirls to the handle in front and we were on our way home. Everything seemed to be going fine. When we were a mile east of Downs, the car stopped. Well, what is the matter now? Nothing, except there was no gas in the tank, and even Fords in those days would not continue on their way without gas. Gas stations were not open after five o'clock that summer. A quarter mile walk and I was at the home of an obliging farmer who sold me five gallons of gas and delivered it to the tank. This was our last interruption and we arrived in Bloomington tired but with a lot of good experience out of my first day with a car. My brother, Dr. F. W. Brian, acknowledged to Mrs. Cooper a few days later that he was much relieved when he heard my voice over the telephone saying we were safely home. The next day Mrs. Cooper went with me again--this time to Weston in the northeast corner of the county and another of my longest trips.

The subject of the meeting in July was "Meatless Dinners" and in August "Sugarless Desserts." In September we discussed the need of hot lunches in the schools and demonstrated how to pack a cold lunch. Then came October and the never-to-be-forgotten flu epidemic. All programs were discontinued. Home Improvement Association members--city and country--joined with women of other organizations to help care for the sick. Monday, October 14, I began work as dietician of the Emergency Hospital set up in the Bloomington Country Club. A fine group of women joined with me in preparing and serving food to the sick and to all the doctors, nurses, and nurses' aids who so willingly gave of their time and strength to this emergency work. The Home Improvement Association units of both farm and home organizations furnished most of the food. All kinds of vegetables, milk, butter, chickens, eggs, etc. came in abundance from all parts of the county. During the two weeks, 3,600 meals were prepared and served. One hundred and fourteen patients were cared for by the doctors and the nursing staff. Four of the patients died; only two of those who worked at the hospital took the disease and they had light cases. Again, the organization had proven to the communities the value of a rural people organized.

November was a planning month and getting back to normal living. The Home Improvement Board now saw the need for a well organized course of study--several lessons on the same subject. Food and health seemed to be most important.

Meetings were resumed in December and the extension program of "Foods in Relation to Health" got off with a good start. The first county bulletin was printed and sent to all members in December, 1918. The end of the year finished the first seven months of the extension work.

It was about this time that the name of the organization was changed from McLean County Home Improvement Association to McLean County Home Bureau. The home bureau has always cooperated with the farm bureau but has never been a subsidiary. It has always had its headquarters in the same building with the farm bureau--first, in the Durley Building, corner of Main and Jefferson Streets; then, in the Hoops Building, corner of Monroe and Center. While the present farm bureau building was being constructed, the two organizations were located in the 500 block North Main and since then in the new farm bureau building, corner of East and Locust Streets.

By the end of the first seven months, those responsible for the program were much wiser as to the type of educational program needed. It was quite evident that good selection, preservation, preparation, and service were all subjects for intensive study and discussion. There must be courses of study with several lessons in each course. The information given must be authentic and practical so the women would want to try it in their homes. Pre-school children's diet was not wisely selected. At one of the meetings, a baby--perhaps eight months old--was lying in its buggy sucking on a large cookie. When the suggestion was made to the little sister, pushing the buggy, that the baby might choke on the cookie, she smilingly replied, "You just ought to see him eat pancakes." Early in 1919 a survey was made of the grade school children mostly of the rural areas to find out how many were drinking milk. Following is the result:

3139	children were questioned
43%	drank coffee or tea every day
19%	drank neither coffee nor tea every day
34%	drank milk every day
21%	drank no milk every day

After three years of intensive information on the need of milk in the child's daily diet and the harmful effects of coffee, another survey was made with the following results:

<u>1922</u>	3424 children were questioned
	14% drank coffee or tea every day
	44% drank no coffee or tea every day
	61% drank milk every day
	11% drank no milk any day

This was gratifying to the board that the educational program was being accepted. They realized that there must be a definite and regular time for meetings to be held in each unit each month. No hit or miss program would do. There were not enough working days in the month for the adviser to meet with each unit each month and do the necessary office work. A full time secretary was employed. This was a great help but there were many problems to be solved. There were other organizations and their meeting dates to be considered. It would not do to schedule a home bureau meeting at a time and in the same community when a Ladies Aid, a Missionary meeting, Red Cross, Household Science Club, or a social club meeting were being held.

The Household Science Club cooperated splendidly by merging with the home bureau. This was the logical thing to do as the Household Science Club was the forerunner of Home Economics Extension work. The scientific information gleaned through laboratories and scientific experiments could now be given to the homemaker. Home advisers were trained to talk and explain in less technical language these new scientific principles as applied to homemaking. It was a courageous thing these leaders of Household Science Clubs did, when they accepted the new organization and lost their identity as a Household Science Club.

Thinking back over the years, we remember some of these women who were outstanding in the work: Mrs. Frank W. Benjamin, state vice-president for four years and county president for more than forty years; Mrs. Jennie C. Barlow, one of the early successful demonstrators; Mrs. F. L. Wakefield and Mrs. Hugh Stewart of the Heyworth Club; and Mrs. H. B. Carlock, who helped with the work in Carlock. There were many others who joined with them and carried their enthusiasm for better homemaking into the new organization, the home bureau.

Making the schedule was not an easy task but, with patience and a fine spirit of cooperation from all groups, it was accomplished. Having set a definite time to meet with the units, the program of work was our next most important problem. It would take two months to visit each unit. The question was what kind of a program would the units have the month the adviser was not present. Music and recreation were considered a necessary part of the work. Two definite programs were planned. At half of the meetings, the adviser would give the major lesson; at the same time, the other half of the units would have a lesson given by one of the members. This lesson outline was planned and prepared in outline form at the county office. Material from the University of Illinois Extension Department was used. The lessons were alternated the next month so each unit received the same material. Roll call was necessary in order to make out the records of attendance. Subjects were carefully selected so each one could make some contribution to the meeting and not just a "yes" and "no" answer. The roll call proved to be a valuable part of the program. Besides the information given, it helped the women to overcome their fear of speaking in public. Papers, discussions, and question periods gave the women an opportunity to express themselves and to grow and develop intellectually. Unit meetings were good and served a purpose but, if a larger growth was to be achieved, it would be necessary for the women to take part in larger group activities.

The Pageant of Progress was one of the first attempts for the units to cooperate in a county-wide project. The Deere Building on South Main Street was secured. Each unit was given a subject. The floor space of the building was divided into booths where the exhibit was displayed. I remember the subject given to the Lexington Unit was "Artificial Lighting in the Home." The display showed the light obtained from a piece of cloth dipped in fat in a can, candles, kerosene lamps, etc. to the latest fixtures in gas and electricity. The public who passed by, as well as the women who assembled the display, knew much more about interior lighting than they did before the pageant was held. All kinds of subjects relative to homemaking were worked out in the same way.

Another county-wide project displayed articles used in homemaking from prehistoric age to the present time. Each booth showed the four articles used in housekeeping common to all people but differing according to time and place used. The four articles were: the kind of dress worn by the woman, the implement used in cutting or the knife, the kind of bread served to the family, and the way in which fire was used for cooking food. Other articles used in the home could be added. Each unit was given a country, a section of a country, or a particular people which they were to represent. The subject of some of the booths were: prehistoric times, cave dwellers, England, Scotland, Germany, Italy, France, Greece, Egypt, China, India, Alaska, Colonial Times, Southern Homes, Mexico, American Indians, Gypsies, and others. The last booth in the line was a model kitchen. I remember hearing one little boy say to another, as they stood at this booth, "Eh! This is no good! Let's go back to the cave dwellers."

"Good health--an asset" was another county project given in the gymnasium of the Y.W.C.A. Some of the displays in this exhibit were: good ventilation, restful sleep induced by good bedding, balanced food, comfortable clothing, corrective exercise. These and other displays made this a very worthwhile health education program.

Another county event to be remembered was a clothing revue where dresses, coats, hats, etc. for different occasions were displayed on living models. All of these projects served to emphasize the value of extension work to the home bureau members and their friends.

These county-wide events took place about two years apart. It gave splendid opportunity for the display of handwork developing creative ability and getting acquainted with members from all parts of the county.

The board decided to make a change in the program and, instead of having one large county exhibit, each unit was to join with the members of the farm bureau and have a township exhibit. January and February were given over to these township meetings. In the morning session, the exhibits were judged and later a discussion hour was given to explanation of the placings. Anyone disagreeing had the right to question the decision and the judge explained the good and bad points of the article questioned. This proved to be a real educational part of the exhibit and helped to raise the standard of the quality of the exhibits for the next year and, what was of more importance, the products used in the home. A joint meeting was held after the covered dish luncheon at noon. There was always an outside speaker from the University of Illinois or other well-informed person on the chosen subject. The local people arranged the program using local talent for such other entertainment as was needed to fill out the afternoon session.

One of the biggest events up to this time, November 7, 1930, was the State Corn Husking Contest. The farm bureau asked the members of the home bureau to be responsible for the food for the occasion. The contest was held on the Eugene D. Funk farm. The crowd was estimated

to be 25,000 people. Our food was all gone long before the event was over. We had 1,000 pounds of cooked ham; 1,500 pies; 400 gallons of coffee; 3,000 loaves of bread; and the home bureau office made 300 gallons of vegetable soup. It was taken to the corn husking field in ten-gallon milk cans and there were thirty cans full of soup. Mrs. Sam Elkins was county president at that time.

Other forms of community activities have demonstrated how well women can plan and work together whether it be for fun and recreation, raising money, or in a time of disaster as sewing and knitting for a nation at war.

Opportunity for growth and development carries with it a responsibility outside the home. It extends into the community, the county, the state, the nation, and now it is international through the Association of the Country Women of the World. Mrs. Spencer Ewing was the first county president, the first state president of the Home Bureau Federation, and now is president of the American Division of the Associated Country Women of the World. Mrs. Homer Johnson was second county president and was also president of the State Federation. Mrs. Sam Elkins was sixth president of the county and state treasurer of the Home Bureau Federation. Mrs. Emil Rediger was vice-president of the county and state recreation leader.

Handicraft lessons have opened new fields of activities for the busy homemaker and have helped her discover her creative ability. She has learned to select clothing suitable for the occasion to which it is to be worn.

The selection and arrangement of furnishings for the country home is as well done as the home in the city. Her many accomplishments gained through broader living has helped to do away with the line of distinction between city and rural folk. They read; they think; they talk; and they act. One cannot work with this fine group of women without learning to know them and to know them is to love them. They are the salt of the earth and will prove their worth any day the need arises.

Home Economics Extension work is difficult physically and mentally but it is not monotonous. There are at least two ways by which you may enter a town. There are many beautiful trees along the road side--stately and dignified in winter time; lovely and beckoning in the summer time. There are many beautiful birds and wild flowers and, in parts of the county, bright colored pheasants are a common sight while the finest of livestock dot the landscape in every direction. So many "thank-you's" and well wishes that one forgets they are weary.

There were always little funny incidents to lighten the more serious side of the work. Getting stuck in the mud or sliding off the road into a snow bank was not funny at the time, but it did give one something different to think about. Then there were the "ruts." How I longed for the ability to write and the gift of oratory that I might give a lecture on "ruts."

There was the time a big boy stopped me at Funks Grove and wanted to ride into McLean saying his motorcycle was out of gas. A guest rider and the equipment I carried did not leave room for another. A little later he was taken by the law for stealing the motorcycle.

Or the day of one big snow storm. Coming from Weston and leaving Chenoa going south on #66, I was stopped and told to go back. The driver of the car said there were twenty cars stranded because a car blocked the road and none could get through. It was snowing and I did not want to go back. I wanted to go to Bloomington. There were four new chains on the trusty Dodge. I knew the road and the shoulders on that particular part of #66. I pulled off the road to the right, passed all the stranded cars, and was first of that group to reach Bloomington.

There was one week I shall always remember because of what happened to my noonday lunch. I had planned to visit schools during the morning hours, eat my lunch enroute, and arrive on time at the place where the unit meeting was to be held. There were to be two extra meetings that week at the noon hour--two chicken culling demonstrations.

Monday morning I left for Lexington with a sandwich and a bottle of milk for my lunch. I planned to be at a schoolhouse at the noon hour and to eat my lunch as I chatted with the teacher about hot lunches at school. It was raining when I left Bloomington and by noon there was such a downpour I had to eat my lunch in the car. Tuesday's meeting was to be at Leroy. I visited schools and at one school I left the car door open when I went into the building. When I came back, I was just in time to see a dog eating the last of my chicken sandwich. Wednesday was the first of the culling demonstrations at the Blue Mound Unit. I did not take a lunch that day as it was to be a home bureau meeting. After the demonstration, we went into the house for lunch and the women had brought their own lunch in sacks. When they discovered I had no lunch, I think I fared best of all for each one wanted to divide her lunch with me.

Thursday the demonstration was to be at Lawndale. I visited a number of schools and arrived about noon for the demonstration. Soon the women began to arrive and I found out by their comments that they had eaten an early dinner at home. It was corn husking time and that called for early dinners. I knew the reputation the Cropsey Unit had for serving bountiful plate lunches after their meetings so I said nothing about not having had lunch. When I arrived at the meeting place near Cropsey, it was beginning to snow. The hostess came to meet me and said, "Do you suppose they will think I am a piker; I am not serving anything this afternoon." I was not a breakfast eater and was beginning to feel that food would be acceptable, but I said, "That is all right." If we did not have to wait for refreshments, I could get started for home in good time. I left as soon as the meeting was over. The ground was covered with snow by this time. I was congratulating myself that I would be home early. One mile east of Barnes station (that was the road used in those days) the left front axle of the car dropped to the ground and I saw the wheel go spinning down the road. I did not know what to do so did nothing for a few minutes. Just thankful I was not hurt! I walked to the second house before I found a telephone to call a Bloomington garage for help. The odor of freshly baked

pumpkin pies did not satisfy my craving for food. I went back to the car to wait. It was getting dark and still snowing. Presently, I saw a light from a lantern coming toward me. Then a man said, "My wife thought you might not have had supper so she sent you a piece of pie." There was also a pot of hot tea and some small cakes. No food ever tasted better and no week was ever like that one. No, it is not a monotonous life but one full of challenges.

It was in the late spring of 1926 that the adviser accepted a Laura Spellman Rockefeller Memorial Foundation Fellowship for further study in Child Development and Parent Education. The fellowship could be used in one of four universities. Liking cold weather and lots of snow, I selected the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis. My resignation was accepted for September 1, 1926 after eight years of service with the McLean County Home Bureau.

Miss Esther Kahle of Colorado, having been recommended by the Extension Department of the University of Illinois, accepted the position I was leaving. On account of her mother's long illness and death, she resigned January 1, 1928 as she was not physically able to continue the work. From January to September, 1928, the county women carried on the work and kept the organization intact.

I spent two years at the University of Minnesota--the second year doing half time teaching in the Child Development and Parent Education Department and the other half working on an experimental project for the department. Then I was ready for a new position. When I returned to Bloomington, the home bureau board asked me if I would again be their home adviser.

Then came 1929 and the financial crash followed by the depression of the early thirties. Too much cannot be said in praise of the financial plan upon which the home bureau was organized. The home bureau is an educational organization, but money is necessary in order to carry on the work. The amount to be raised is decided upon annually but the financial plan has been the same throughout the years. The budget is made, based upon past expenditures and future needs. The amount of the budget is divided by the number of units in the county. That sum is the amount each unit must raise that year to finance the county work. Each member pays one dollar dues per year. Whatever is lacking of their portion of the budget is raised by the unit. The method used to raise the money is left entirely to the individual unit. The county home bureau has never had a deficit.

When the home adviser returned to the work in 1928, she continued the schedule as originally planned. There seemed to be no other way. It was not entirely satisfactory to the members nor to the adviser. No meetings were held in July and August. That meant there were only five meeting days per year for the adviser to meet with each unit. One morning Mrs. J. F. Stauffer of the White Oak Unit came to the office and asked me if I would come to their unit in the morning of the day they had their meeting in the afternoon without me; then go to the other meeting in the afternoon. I told her I was here to serve the members and, if that was what they wanted, it would be all right with me.

The question of change in plan of meeting and using more of the adviser's time at unit meetings was discussed at the monthly Board and Directors' meeting. The vote was in favor of trying the new plan for one year. There would be an all-day meeting in each unit each month. The adviser would meet with one unit in the morning, give the major lesson, have lunch with that unit, then go to the unit having the adviser in the afternoon, and give to them the major lesson. The next month the adviser would reverse her schedule and meet with the other unit in the morning. Using this plan, the adviser could meet with each unit nine times during the year instead of five. June, July, and August would be given to 4-H Club work. A few changes were made in unit meeting days. For a large county, the plan has been very successful. Covered dish lunches were served for a number of years. Mount Hope Unit tried a new plan. Nine all-day monthly meetings were held during the year. (The June meeting being an afternoon tea.) Each member was placed on one of nine committees. Each committee was to serve the noon lunch once during the year. Table service was brought by each member but they brought no food. This proved to be a much more satisfactory way to serve the noon lunch. Balanced meals, one of the extension teachings, could be put into practice in group feeding. Other units tried the plan and now it is followed by all units in the county.

These all-day meetings have strengthened the extension program. It gives time for an orderly business meeting conducted by local officers when the adviser is not present, also for more local leaders to have part of the program and to give minor lessons on more subjects. More time could be given to music and recreation and to the major lesson given by the adviser.

The noon hour gave an opportunity for social contacts. Members met their friends and neighbors some of whom they met for the first time at home bureau meetings. The men of the families cooperated with a fine spirit of willingness to eat a cold lunch at noon.

At first the men took their wives to the meeting, then came for them in the afternoon. Soon the women decided they would learn to drive the car. They would not only be more independent, but also more helpful, going to market and assisting in many other ways.

The home bureau is well organized. Besides the county officers of president, first and second vice-presidents, secretary, and treasurer, there is also a staff of unit officers. These consist of a director who represents the unit at the county meeting, chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and treasurer. The units may have chairmen of local interests, such as finance, history, courtesy committees, etc. There are subject matter chairmen in each unit as well as a county chairman for each department of work. These chairmen are responsible for any material pertaining to their department. They come to the subject matter training schools conducted by specialists from the University of Illinois and take the lessons back to their unit meetings. The following departments are active in the home bureau program: foods, clothing, home furnishings, home management, health and sanitation, family living, music, recreation, and 4-H club work. Working together in the units develops leadership and often discovers hidden talents.

If I were to try to analyze the value of extension work, the first place, perhaps, would be given to 4-H Club work. However, without the broadening knowledge which extension work has given to adults, there would not be the sympathetic understanding between parents and youth for their work.

"The Youth of today is the Nation tomorrow." The 4-H program is so full of the real things of life that every boy and girl should have the opportunity to become a 4-H club member. Looking through my old diary, I found I organized the first 4-H girls' club at Towanda July 8, 1918, and on July 11 organized a girls' club at Downs with fourteen members.

The first boys' and girls' 4-H Club Fair or public exhibit was held for a few hours the afternoon of September 19, 1919, in connection with the McLean County Breeders' Association. There were twenty-two exhibits. The work has grown until today it takes a full week to set up the McLean County boys' and girls' 4-H Club Fair, take it down, and display the exhibits to the interested people who come by the thousands to this, the only fair held in McLean County.

The years have come and gone. By 1945, there were twenty-eight home bureau units--two in Bloomington, one in Normal, and twenty-five in the other townships. There were 1,770 members.

The organization has lived through two World Wars and has taken an active part as citizens of a nation at war. Their sons and daughters answered the call and many homes have vacant chairs around the family circle.

In May, 1945, after twenty-five years of service in the field of Home Economics Extension work, the adviser tendered her resignation to the McLean County Home Bureau Board to take effect September 1, 1945. This was not to say good-by but to take her place as a member of the greatest international organization, next to the church, that has ever been organized for women. The work of the home adviser was to be turned over to a new and younger leader.

September 1, 1945, Mrs. Jean K. Lystad, with her little son and daughter, came to work with us. Mrs. Lystad had served five years in extension work in Iroquois County. She has proven her ability as a leader shown by the increase in membership up to 2,370.

Long may the organization continue to live and grow in its service to men, women, boys, and girls. May she ever prove herself to be worthy of an exalted place in the field of education.

McLean County Home Bureau

by

Miss Clara M. Brian
204 E. Walnut
Bloomington, Illinois

Women who have served as presidents of McLean County Home Bureau

Ewing, Mrs. Spencer	Bloomington	1918-1921
Johnson, Mrs. Homer R.	Covel	1921-1923
Wakefield, Mrs. F. L.	Heyworth	1923-1925
Funk, Mrs. Eugene D.	Shirley	1925-1927
Moon, Mrs. Simon	Towanda	1927-1929
Elkin, Mrs. Sam	Bloomington	1929-1931
Baker, Mrs. J. Howard	McLean	1931-1933
Swartz, Mrs. L. F.	Bloomington	1933-1935
Funk, Mrs. LaFayette	Shirley	1935-1937
Bower, Mrs. Harry	Bloomington	1937-1939
Ambrose, Mrs. James	Hudson	1939-1941
Kerbaugh, Mrs. L. Parke	Stanford	1941-1943
Thomas, Mrs. Floyd	Heyworth	1943-1946
Johnson, Mrs. Harry	Normal	1946-1948
Yoder, Mrs. Willard	Danvers	1948-

THE BLOOMINGTON PANTAGRAPH

by

Harold Sinclair

THE BLOOMINGTON PANTAGRAPH

A Brief History

by

Harold Sinclair

The DAILY PANTAGRAPH is not the oldest newspaper in Illinois, but it is among the half dozen oldest. The Springfield JOURNAL, for example, is a little older, the Chicago TRIBUNE a couple of years younger. The PANTAGRAPH is, however, the oldest business establishment in Bloomington, pre-dating the next oldest by a number of years.

Jesse Fell, to whom early Bloomington owed so much, established the first newspaper in the town--the BLOOMINGTON OBSERVER & McLEAN COUNTY ADVOCATE. The OBSERVER lived from early 1837 to sometime in 1839, and at one time Jesse Fell and James Allin (who was the actual founder of Bloomington) were listed as co-owners, with William Hill as editor and publisher. The OBSERVER died a natural death. The little village simply didn't afford enough business to support it profitably, and the lack was intensified

by the financial crisis of the years 1837-1839. Late in 1839 Fell sold the paper's printing equipment to the people who, immediately thereafter, established the DEMOCRATIC PRESS in Peoria.

Because of Fell's connection with the OBSERVER and the latter PANTAGRAPH, the latter might well claim, with considerable justification, to be directly descended from the original OBSERVER, though it has never done so.

After the demise of the OBSERVER the town was without a newspaper until sometime in 1845. In that year an obscure R.B. Mitchell, about whom practically nothing is known (he was probably a wandering printer), established a paper called the McLEAN COUNTY REGISTER. This venture wasn't much of a success financially and in 1846 the paper was taken over by Charles P. Merriman and renamed THE WHIG, or, sometimes, THE WESTERN WHIG. The first office of THE WHIG was at #3 Brick Row, upstairs, on the north side of Front Street, west of Main.

Merriman was originally a teacher, as were so many editors of that day. He had taught in a number of places, had operated a private school in Atlanta, Georgia, and in Bloomington, along with his other enterprises, established the Bloomington Female Academy, a sort of early day combined high school and junior college. Among his other activities he served as member and president of the Board of Trustees, Town of Bloomington, and after the city's incorporation served a term as mayor.

For some years, under Merriman, THE WHIG was fairly prosperous and from time to time he was able to increase the size of the paper

and add more up to date printing equipment. The paper was, of course, issued weekly. It was Merriman who coined the name PANTAGRAPH, as used as a newspaper title, and the change in names was made with the issue of December 1, 1853.

In 1854, June to be precise, prospects were bright enough for Merriman to begin publishing the PANTAGRAPH as a daily. During the years 1853-54-55 Bloomington had a very rapid growth, largely due to the building of the Illinois Central and Chicago & Alton railroads. Furthermore the telegraph had begun operating in January, 1854 and more news of national interest was available. About the time the daily issue was begun Merriman acquired Jacob Morris, from Warren, Ohio as a partner.

For a number of years Merriman had hammered away editorially at the need for a city fire department, but as usual in such matters it took a near catastrophe to get anything done. On October 16, 1855 almost the entire block on the south side of the courthouse square burned to the ground--including the plant of the PANTAGRAPH on Front Street. Merriman and Morris were out of business in a matter of hours. The fire destroyed everything at the office of the paper, and as far as is known there are no copies of the daily that was issued during that brief period.

After the fire Jacob Morris withdrew from the business and Merriman entered into a partnership with William E. Foote. Merriman had given Foote his first Bloomington job as a printer, then Foote had quit and gone into the printing business on his own, and prospered. His well equipped shop was on the west side of the

courthouse square, the present location of W.B. Read & Co. Publication of the PANTAGRAPH as a weekly was resumed there.

The PANTAGRAPH had been one of the first newspapers to support the then newly organized Republican Party. In fact Merriman himself was one of the newspapermen who heard Abraham Lincoln's so-called Lost Speech--and failed to record it for posterity. In the PANTAGRAPH Merriman merely recorded that Mr. Lincoln had made a speech, though he did add that Lincoln's speech surpassed all the others made on the same occasion, and that it was received by a storm of applause.

Jesse Fell had continued his unofficial connection with the paper. For a time, before the name was finally changed to PANTAGRAPH, Fell had been in partnership with Merriman and for a brief period the paper was called the INTELLIGENCER. Then in 1856 Merriman withdrew from his connection with Foote and the latter installed --that was the word in vogue at the time--Edward J. Lewis as PANTAGRAPH editor. Lewis in a sense was a protege of Fell's, had come to Bloomington from Pennsylvania as a result of Fell's urging, and had worked for Fell personally before coming to the PANTAGRAPH.

In February of 1857 William Foote again resumed publication of the daily PANTAGRAPH. The price was $12\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per week--the bit piece was still in use at that time--delivered by carrier, or \$6.00 per year. It should be remembered that for many years the paper was published as both a daily and weekly, the weekly being

published regularly even when the daily, for one reason or another, was temporarily suspended.

During a period just preceding the Civil War, the PANTAGRAPH went through a series of rapid changes in ownership. After February of 1860 it was for a time owned by Amasa J. Merriman, a former mayor and at the time county judge, who also happened to be a nephew of Charles P. Merriman. The latter was reinstated as editor and in a comparatively short time A. J. Merriman withdrew, Charles P. again becoming one of the proprietors, this time in partnership with Flavius J. Briggs, a one-time Universalist minister. This partnership continued until July of 1861.

It should be kept in mind that in the United States of this period, newspapers as such were rarely profitable financially. For the most part they operated as adjuncts of commercial printing establishments (or vice versa) or as political organs supported heavily by party funds. Advertising, while helpful financially, was by no means anything like the economic factor it is today--and subscription lists alone never supported any American newspaper of consequence, even in the simpler day of 1860.

In Bloomington, in the spring of 1861, there were four papers: the PANTAGRAPH, of course; the ILLINOIS CENTRAL TIMES and the ILLINOIS STATESMAN, both Democratic; and the ADVERTISER, more or less independent politically. The latter even essayed bravely as a daily for a time, in competition with the PANTAGRAPH--in a town of about 8,000 people, a lot of whom couldn't read!

The ADVERTISER was published by the firm of Steele & Carpenter, who were printers originally employed by William Foote. In the summer of 1861 Steele & Carpenter bought C.P. Merriman's interest in the PANTAGRAPH, finally ending the latter's connection with Bloomington newspapers. Briggs for a time retained his interest and the new firm was known as Steele, Carpenter & Company. It was announced that the ADVERTISER would be combined with the PANTAGRAPH--actually the former was simply killed outright. Edward J. Lewis, who had again been editing the PANTAGRAPH after an unsuccessful venture in the Colorado gold fields (with W.O. Davis, of whom more later), resigned to become a first lieutenant in the 33rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Colonel Hovey commanding what was known as the Schoolmasters' Regiment. Thomas Moore, former editor of the ADVERTISER, replaced Lewis.

For a time Messrs. Steele and Carpenter attempted to issue both a morning and evening issue of the PANTAGRAPH, but how impossible that was soon became evident. There are no exact circulation figures available, but during the first year of the Civil War, when local demand for news was probably at a new height, the PANTAGRAPH'S circulation was about 600 daily and 1500 weekly --the figures mentioned by the paper itself. By the end of 1862 circulation was up to about 1000 per day. The daily price had increased to 15¢ per week but the weekly was still \$2.00 per year.

The war years gave the PANTAGRAPH, and all other papers, the

usual difficulties--general business uncertainty, shortages of paper, ink and skilled labor. No later than August of 1863 the paper reported that eighteen men, formerly connected with the PANTAGRAPH in one way or another, were in the Union army.

Because of Carpenter's death, near the end of the Civil War, the firm name was changed to Steele, Briggs & Company--the Company being Thaddeus B. Packard, a son-in-law of Briggs. Then in the autumn of 1867 the entire firm (commercial printing was still an important part of the business) was sold to John S. Scibird and Orin Waters, who functioned under the firm name of Scibird & Waters.

At this narrative point it should be obvious that the PANTAGRAPH, though by now something over twenty years of age, was hardly a stable concern. That, however, was the nature of the newspaper business, and the PANTAGRAPH experience was common to the time and place.

Certain stabilizing changes, however, were shortly forthcoming.

Jesse Fell, still busy as ever, had determined to establish a journal of education in connection with Normal University, a thriving institution now that the war was over. During a visit to his old home in West Chester, Pennsylvania, Fell interested a printer, James P. Taylor, in the idea, and in due time Taylor moved a practically new printing outfit to Normal, bringing with him as

well an editor and three printers.

But it soon became evident to Taylor that Fell's plan was, to say the least, visionary and almost certain to fail. About the same time it was learned that the PANTAGRAPH was for sale. So the paper was purchased and the printing equipment was consolidated. William O. Davis became a third partner in the venture.

William Osborne had been in and around Bloomington since 1858, having also come originally from West Chester as a protégé of Fell's. He had taught school, served Fell in various capacities, and had made a trip to Colorado with the party which had included Editor Lewis. He had married one of Fell's daughters, served as a paymaster in the Union army and as a Patent Office clerk in Washington, and in 1868 was engaged in farming on the Main Street road south of Bloomington.

Many years later Davis recorded the fact that the partnership paid \$15,000 for the PANTAGRAPH, added \$2,000 in cash for operating expenses and put in Taylor's printing equipment at a value of \$7,000, making a total investment of \$24,000 in the autumn of 1868.

Immediately after the purchase the PANTAGRAPH was moved from its old location on the west side of the square, to the northeast corner of Monroe and Center Streets, then an almost new building.

According to Davis's account, part of the business arrangement was that the PANTAGRAPH was to be left a clear field, so

far as Scibird & Waters were concerned. In only a few months, however, Scibird & Waters, together with a number of other local men, established a new paper called the LEADER. The LEADER, under its original corporate ownership, lasted only a little over two years, when it was sold by the sheriff. That did not mean, of course, that it disappeared from the local scene. It was bought for its debts by M.F. Leland, its advertising manager and an original stockholder, and he continued as publisher for a considerable number of years.

The PANTAGRAPH, with the unexpected opposition, or competition, of the LEADER, had a rough time for a while under Fell, Taylor and Davis. Davis recorded, however, that it showed a small profit at the end of their third year of ownership. The original Davis, Fell, Taylor partnership was dissolved, as of January 1, 1871, and Davis became sole owner and publisher. Ownership of the PANTAGRAPH has remained in the Davis family since that time, only one outsider having held any interest during this period of eighty years.

The Depression of 1873-74 affected the PANTAGRAPH to some extent, as it did almost every business, but aside from that the paper's story in general has been one of steady growth. The Panic of '73 could not have bothered the paper too much, however, for by October 30, 1875, Davis had completed a new building at the corner of Madison and Washington Streets. It was not the old PANTAGRAPH building as most people remember, but only the first

portion of it. This first section was two storeys and basement, and measured 22 X 70 feet. It was a landmark, however, in the sense that this was the first time any Bloomington newspaper had been sound enough financially to consider building and owning its own premises. The capacity of this building was greatly enlarged in 1887, the newer structure being three storeys high, 44 X 115 feet.

As pointed out previously, the printing business had for generations been the newspaper's commercial crutch, but Davis could foresee a time when this would no longer be true--except perhaps in the smaller towns and villages. As early as 1886 Davis had moved to get away from commercial printing. A corporation to handle the printing, binding and stationery business was formed, the stockholders being Davis and three other men already in that end of the business. But in August of 1889 Davis disposed of his own holdings in the new company and thereafter there has been no business connection, except business friendship of course, between the newspaper and the Pantagraph Printing & Stationery Company, which as part of the agreement was allowed to retain the by then valuable name, Pantagraph.

The paper of course has been a member of the Associated Press almost since the organization of the news gathering service. (A.P. too has gone through a number of transformations since its early beginnings.) In connection with the news wire service the paper was the first concern in Bloomington to lease its own

telegraph wires. Further, the first telephone in Bloomington connected the PANTAGRAPH office and the office of a lumber yard near the old Illinois Central depot--though now no one seems to know quite why. Shortly thereafter Davis had a phone connection between his office and his home, at that time in Normal. For many years PANTAGRAPH phone numbers were One for the business office and Two for the editorial department--possibly indicating order of installation rather than relative importance.

William O. Davis was sole authority in PANTAGRAPH affairs (always of course with an able staff) from 1871 until his death in 1911, a period of almost exactly forty years. He was succeeded as publisher by his son, Hibbard O. Davis, familiarly known in Bloomington as Bert, who had been second in command for some years. Ownership of the paper passed to H. O. Davis and his two sisters, Mrs L. B. Merwin and Mrs L. G. Stevenson, the latter of course the mother of Governor Adlai E. Stevenson.

W. O. Davis had lived and worked through what might well be considered the most colorful period of American history. When he first arrived in Bloomington he was just twenty-one years old. In his lifetime he had been school teacher, farmer, Federal government employe, and in Colorado experienced the American frontier as it really was. As an associate of Jesse Fell he saw much of the maneuvering which eventually made Abraham Lincoln president, and himself took part in what up to that time was the greatest of all military adventures. As a newspaper publisher he saw steam and

hand power replaced by electricity; saw and fostered the introduction of such now commonplace devices as linotypes, telephones, typewriters, automobiles, and free rural mail delivery. When the Journalism Hall of Fame was established at the University of Illinois, Davis was, one might almost say automatically, one of the first half dozen nominees.

One of Davis's oldest professional colleagues was Chalmer C. Marquis, who joined the PANTAGRAPH in August of 1877. Mr Marquis officially retired in 1936, after sixty-one years, but he was considered a member of the PANTAGRAPH staff until his death early in 1950.

Many newspapers had lived and died in Bloomington before, during and after Davis's lifetime. One of these was the previously mentioned LEADER. Another was the once-a-week SUNDAY EYE. The BULLETIN was established in 1881, and in 1899 it absorbed both the LEADER and the SUNDAY EYE, leaving Bloomington divided (except for the German language weeklies) newspaperwise between the morning PANTAGRAPH and the evening BULLETIN. With one exception, that is --the weekly PANTAGRAPH. It was published, partially for sentimental reasons, long after it ceased to be profitable. Mounting costs and other reasons incidental to World War I caused the final demise of the weekly, and the last issue was run on September 1, 1916.

H.O. Davis was publisher of the PANTAGRAPH from 1911 until his death in 1925, and he in turn was succeeded by Davis Merwin, a grandson of William O. Davis.

Shortly thereafter, in 1927 to be exact, the PANTAGRAPH absorbed the BULLETIN. Many people could perhaps give many reasons for the demise of the BULLETIN, but undoubtedly one of the main factors was the death of the BULLETIN'S long time publisher, James O'Donnell. O'Donnell had been the heart and mind of the BULLETIN, as W.O.Davis was of the PANTAGRAPH. The difference was that Davis had able successors to carry on, whereas O'Donnell did not. The BULLETIN was published for some time after O'Donnell's death, but it was never quite the same. At any rate it was for sale and the PANTAGRAPH bought.

The latter day history of the PANTAGRAPH is reasonably well known to most of its readers. Davis Merwin continued as publisher until the middle Thirties, and was in turn succeeded by his brother Loring. The latter, great grandson of Jesse Fell and grandson of William O.Davis, continues as publisher as this is written in 1950; though for the record it should be stated that Joe M.Bunting, present general manager, was acting publisher for a period of three and one-half years, during a period when both Davis and Loring Merwin were in the armed forces of World War II.

May, 1950.

CARRYING THE UNITED STATES MAIL

by

Claude McLean

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Now enjoying my retirement I can look back through the years with fond memories of a life spent in the Postal Service as a city letter carrier. To me as I write this that does not seem so very long ago, yet these memories take me back to the year 1900. A large part of the business district lay in ruins after the big fire of 1900. Dr. A. T. Barnes, a physician and Civil War veteran, was in the final year of his term as postmaster. William McCambridge was assistant postmaster, afterwards acting as postmaster for several months prior to the appointment of J. A. Bohrer as postmaster with R.N. Evans as assistant postmaster. It was during the administration of postmaster Bohrer that, having successfully passed a Civil Service examination, James McNab, John O'Donnell and I were appointed as substitute letter carriers.

The carrier force at this time consisted of seventeen regular carriers and a night collector in addition to us three substitutes, and I was the youngest one among them. These old timers were M. T. Fannon, who twelve years later became secretary of the National Association of Letter Carriers and one of the best known men in Washington, George Eldridge, F.C. Lawrence, H. P. Fielder, better known as Doc, J. W. Keeran, John Ferry, J. J. Brennan, Charles Poulton, Lawson Bradley, who later was killed by a car while on duty as night collector, Herman Gerling, H. P. McFee, Charles Hiltz, William H. Harrison,

Charles Elfstrand, C. F. Meier, Charles Yarp, Frank L. Enlow and F. B. Augustus. With the exception of Frank Enlow, William Hartson and myself all of these men have gone out on their last long trip from which none may return. At this time there were also seven rural carriers, although today there are but four. Improved roads and the use of motor cars have led to the consolidation of routes, which are covered in half the time now than when it required an all day trip, and when in Spring and Winter a shovel and lantern were almost necessary equipment. The population of our city at this time was about 20,000 or 22,000. I do not have the exact figures, but these are about right.

At this time large sections of our city had not as yet come into being. The vast east side from Elmwood Road and Country Club Place on the north to Cloud Street on the south and east of the present Leland street was mostly fields, orchards and pastures. Also the fair grounds was part of this section. None of the delivery routes at this period extended beyond the present Leland street. However, work was well underway at this time in converting this vast section into the fine residence district it now is. New additions were platted, new streets laid out and many new homes were under construction. A five room cottage at this time cost around a thousand dollars. My mother and step-father were among the first to build in this section and I recall that they owned a couple of cows which they put out to graze in Davis Pasture, now Country Club Place.

I served as a substitute carrier for two years and three months during which time I carried mail on all but three of the routes. It was on November 1, 1904 that I received my appointment as a regular carrier to route six, succeeding John Ferry who left the Service. I carried this route for the next thirty-six years up to the time of my retirement. Due to disability I retired from the Service on October 1, 1940.

The post office in those early days was located on the north-west corner of East and Jefferson Streets and was virtually a new building having been erected about three years previously, and was very solidly built having walls at least twenty inches thick. It is no doubt due to this same solid construction that it withstood the big fire of 1900 when on two sides of it the flames raged unchecked not more than forty feet away. It so happened that I was in the Post Office at the height of the fire seeking William McCambridge, the assistant postmaster who was also correspondent for the Associated Press, and it was really a busy place with the night force moving out the mail.

My route, Number Six, at this time began at the south-west corner of Market and East Streets, then north on East Street working the catches (intersections of cross streets) for a half block each way to Empire, then across to Main and north on Main

to Division, after the two blocks of Division Street I had Kelsey, Emerson and Beecher Streets, Franklin Avenue, two blocks of Fell Avenue, the 15 block of McLean Street, the 14 block of Park Street, Wesleyan University, then back to East Street ending at Empire. This was the original route but in the thirty-six years that followed due to route changes, I was shifted back and forth. However my entire service as a regular carrier was served in the area bounded on the south by Walnut Street, on the West by Main Street, on the East by Fell Avenue and on the North by the city limits.

Between Market and Mulberry Streets were several business establishments including a feed yard, two horse shoeing shops, and two livery stables, all types of businesses which were gradually to become extinct and to be replaced by the garage, the parking lot and the service station. Several other forms of business then quite active in our city were the cigar factories where hand made cigars were manufactured, harness stores, two buggy factories, a pickle factory, a pork packing plant and several custom tailoring shops all of which have now passed from the scene.

North Main Street and part of North East Street were then one of the prominent residence districts of the city and many of our wealthy and prominent citizens lived there in large houses, some of which occupied spacious grounds. However, through the passing years, some of these folks moved to other and newer parts of the city, others passed away, and today there are but three persons living on Main, between Empire and Division who lived there when I took over the route in 1904. Many of these once proud homes have been torn down and replaced by business establishments; others have been converted to funeral homes; several of them are now college fraternity and sorority houses; others became apartments; and several are now Wesleyan dormitories. The Edwin Harber home at 1308 North Main Street, now the Tau Kappa Epsilon house, was for a time the Mennonite Hospital until the Mennonites purchased the Dr. Kelso Sanitorium, a rambling three story frame building, later replacing it with the present buildings. Where once stood the Stubblefield^h at 1405 North Main Street is now Ridgewood Terrace. North Main Street then as now was a speedway with this difference, then it was fast horses, now it is automobiles.

When I first went on the route there were numerous open spaces. The west side of the 13 block on North East Street was a pasture; there were no houses at all in the 1 block on Beecher Street; the 14 block on the east side of Franklin Avenue was all vacant land - it is now the site of the Wesleyan gymnasium and the new heating plant; there were six or seven houses in White's Place; and Clinton Street from Empire north was all Walker pasture. The large elm trees in this section were then but saplings. The street cars ran on an embankment on the west side of Franklin Avenue but the tracks were moved to the center of the street when paving was laid.

Phoenix Avenue, University Avenue and the 13 block Park street were mostly vacant lots - all are now built up solid. Normal at this time had no city delivery and I carried the mail for Brokaw Hospital, leaving it in a large metal lock box at the corner of Franklin Avenue and Division Street.

The stores on the route were Roediger's at 1107 North Main, afterward Ulbrich and Longmier and last owner R.N. Woodworth; W. D. Penner, 1513 North Main; then Arthur Jones, a man named Wagner, Louis Hayes and Harry D. Flynn. This building was afterwards torn down and the lumber used in the construction of two nearby residences. A lunchroom now occupies the site. There was also John Keogh at 304 East Beecher, afterward Ed Maloney, Louis Rodgers and for the past fifteen years as a student lunch room. Charles F. Fleischer, 1013 North Park and George Armbruster, 1009 North Park, both are long since dead, and Arthur Armbruster now is at 1013 Park Street, and the McLean County Medical authorities now occupy the former Armbruster store at 1009.

In these early days many houses were fenced in, and opening and shutting gates especially with two sacks of mail hanging to you was somewhat of a nuisance. Many folks kept chickens, others had a horse or cow, and a few had a hog or two. I recall one family who had several geese that were allowed loose in the yard, and the minute I opened the gate the old gander was snapping at my legs. There were a number of times during the years I carried mail that heavy rains caused Sugar Creek to overflow and surround houses at two places on the route, making it impossible for me to get to them. Pavements were few in number and most sidewalks were of brick, so that in the spring of the year the carrier was forced to wade back and forth across the street through ankle deep mud, a condition which prevailed for many years. Very gradually mud streets gave way to pavements, brick walks to concrete, and I was to see long before I retired paved streets on the route which when I took it over was in large part all mud streets, and most of the walks brick instead of concrete.

There were but two buildings on the Wesleyan campus in 1904 - Old North Hall which housed the library and some class rooms, and Old Main, a large four story building which many years later was to be named Hedding Hall. There was also a small observatory. It was quite a few years later that Science Hall and a central heating plant were erected, and I recall the afternoon that Dr. R. O. Graham, head of the chemistry department, turned the first spade-full of dirt in the erection of Science Hall.

Wesleyan at this time has a law school and many of its students are today successful attorneys both in our local courts and throughout the state. Scott Lucas, United States Senator from Illinois, Ivan Elliott, present attorney general of Illinois, and Robert Allison of Pekin, a state representative were then law students living on my route. Vernon

Nichols, Noble Puffer, and Byron McCormick are others who rose to high office in the public service, while Gerald Thomas became a general in the Marine Corps and played an important part in World War II, and Adlai Rust is now executive vice-president of the State Farm Insurance Company. There was Dr. H. W. McPherson to whom I carried mail as a student and many years later as President of Wesleyan; and a great many others who in later years were to become very well known in the professions, in business and the ministry.

Professor F. M. Austin and Dr. R. O. Graham, both long since dead, were also teaching at Wesleyan back in those early days of 1904. In later years, Prof. Cliff Guild, Dr. A. C. Piersal, Prof. William Wallis, Dr. F. S. Mortimer and many others were to teach at Wesleyan while I carried mail there. Among the many instructors in the music school were Dean Arthur E. Westbrook, Miss Bessie Louise Smith, Prof. W. E. Kritch, and Prof. Edmund Munger, all of whom played their part in bringing to the Music School the high reputation it now enjoys.

The Music School which was located down town was moved into a large two story frame house at 1002 North East Street where it remained for several years until the erection of the present building, Presser Hall.

During the First World War, a unit of the S.A.T.C. - about 250 men was stationed at Wesleyan in a two story army barracks located on the site of the present gymnasium, under command of an army officer. It was an impressive sight to see this unit assembled on the campus morning and evening for the raising and lowering of the colors. Their training in the manual of arms was with wooden guns, but after the collapse of Russia, rifles intended for that nation were furnished them. Soon afterwards, however, the unit was discontinued. It was responsible for a large increase in the volume of mail which I had to handle.

A few years prior to the War, Wesleyan bought the DeMange home, a huge three story mansion at 1207 N. Main Street and converted it into a dormitory for girls, naming it Kemp Hall in honor of Dr. Theodore Kemp, president of Wesleyan. Another home at 1305 N. Main, later purchased, was named Kemp lodge. During the War a number of French girl students were sent to the United States to complete their education and eight of these girls were sent to Wesleyan. A bit of romance was the later marriage of one of these girls, Jeanne Seigneuer of Belfort, France, to her former sweetheart in France, who as a crippled war veteran had come to the United States to attend school at the University of Illinois. Dr. Kemp of Wesleyan performed the ceremony.

During the war the letter carriers took an active part in the role of Thrift and War Savings Stamps. Citizen committees canvassed the city and obtained orders for them. The

orders were turned over to us and we took them out on the designated days, delivered and collected for them. Two of the carriers made the supreme sacrifice as a result of the war, Frank Thoennes and Wilbur Killian. Frank died in England while with the A.E.F. and Wilbur was killed in a fall from a troop train. I shall never forget how the anxious wives and mothers watched for my coming with news from their loved ones over seas, and it was one of the hardest things I had to do, to tell them as I so often had to do, that there was no over sea mail for them.

Almost every home in the vicinity of Wesleyan had student roomers and three famous student rooming houses of those days were Mother Murphy's at 1206 N. Prairie, Daigers at 1204 N. Prairie, and Aunt Carrie Woodson at 1106 N. Prairie. Prof. Fred Muhl, still teaching at Wesleyan, is I believe the only one there now who was there when I first came on the route. Miss Constance Ferguson, daughter of Wesleyan's grand old man, Prof. Wilbert Ferguson, is also another who has taught for many years. While I should enjoy mentioning all these old friends, space does not permit, but I shall always cherish my memories of the old school, its students, faculty, presidents and office workers, for my relations with them all were most pleasant ones.

The following men were presidents of Wesleyan during the thirty-six years I carried mail there: Dr. E. M. Smith, Dr. Frank C. Barnes, Dr. Theodore Kemp, Dr. W. J. Davidson, Dr. H. W. McPherson, Dr. Wiley G. Brooks and Dr. W. E. Shaw. A few years after the war the memorial gymnasium was erected to honor those Wesleyan students who made the supreme sacrifice. Then a few years later the Buck Memorial Library and Presser Hall, and also a residence for the president, were erected. Additional property was purchased on East and Main streets thus extending the campus to Main Street. The houses removed on East, Prairie and Park streets to make room for the library and Presser Hall were moved to Kelsey St., Fell Ave., Phoenix Ave., and University Ave. and I continued to deliver mail to them in their new locations.

In the midst of World War Two, Hedding Hall was destroyed by fire. The high basement was afterwards roofed over and it is still in use. Three other large buildings have been recently erected, a men's dormitory on Beecher St., Social Center at East and University, and a girl's dormitory at Main and University. A new heating plant was also constructed. After World War Two the increase in students' enrollment under the G. I. Bill for former soldiers led to the erection of former army barracks on the campus for the use of classrooms as well as dwellings.

By 1920 Clinton Street, White's Place and Fell Ave., were well built up and shortly afterwards the Eastholme addition east of the Central tracks and north of Empire Street was taken into the city and city delivery extended there too.

A new route was added with Herbert Hildebrand, a war veteran, now dead, as carrier.

During the early years of my service all the carrier routes started a few blocks from the post office, but as the city grew and new routes were added some of the routes had their start east of the Central tracks and west of the Alton tracks, the carriers going out on the street cars to their starting point. Still other routes were ended far from the office and the carriers came in on the cars. This system is used today with this difference - the street cars are now a thing of the past and carriers ride the buses.

Parcel Post came into being January 1, 1913. The first parcel post carrier was Carl Stoltze, who used a horse drawn wagon for making his deliveries. Later on a motor truck of his own was used, the Post Office department paying him for its use, and it was not until 1922 that the department had their own trucks. Small parcels as before were delivered by the foot carriers and still are. I recall quite well that among the first parcel post packages delivered by me were several sample brick sent to building contractors living on my route. A follow-up of parcel post was insured parcel post and C.O.D. mail.

It was about 1922 that the trend to remodeling the present houses into apartments set in and soon became quite general throughout the city, and what had once been a single dwelling unit became two, three, four or five apartments. This, of course made a great difference to the carrier as it meant that on portions of his route the number of his patrons greatly increased in number, also the volume of mail.

In the early years of my service many of our citizens were former immigrants. The south part of the city, better known as South Hill, was in large part settled by Germans, and the south-west portion, Stevensonville, was mostly Swedes and these folks all got German and Swedish papers in great numbers. The north-west part of the city, west of the Alton Shops, known as the Forty Acres, and the section, north of the shops, called the Bush, were settled at an early day by Irish immigrants who played a large part in building the Alton. At the time I entered the service, these old time Irish had moved to other parts of the city, others had passed on and influx of immigrants from Hungary were taking over. I carried the route in this section as a substitute in 1903 for two weeks. This was quite an experience as letters for these folks were usually mailed in the Old Country without sufficient postage and it was necessary to affix due stamps and collect the difference, usually ten cents on delivery. As few of these people could speak English it was rather difficult to make them understand what I wanted, but usually in such cases the children who had a year or two of school came to my aid and interpreted for me.

The story of the four chaplains, two Protestant ministers, a Catholic priest and a Jewish rabbi who as the transport, Dorchester, was sinking during World War Two, gave their life belts to wounded soldiers and went down with the ship held a special interest for me as one of these men was the Rev. George Fox, Methodist minister who lived on my route while a student at Wesleyan University. The Post Office Department in 1948, issued a special commemorative stamp to honor these men.

Midway of Postmaster Bohrer's administration, R.N. Evans resigned as Assistant Postmaster and was succeeded by William H. Moore, a Civil War veteran, who in time was succeeded by S. R. Saltzman, who had served as a clerk in the railway mail service and then as a clerk in the local office. Mr. Saltzman was Assistant Postmaster from 1918 until his retirement in 1946 during which time he was acting postmaster for several months after the death of Postmaster William Fahey and prior to the appointment of Carter Pietsch the present postmaster. He was followed by G. K. Janes the present incumbent.

During the administration of Postmaster Morrissey an addition was added to the west side of the post office, the increase of mail and the rapidly growing parcel post making it necessary to have more room. Some one named this new addition the Dog House and as such it was always known thereafter. Even with this additional space it was but a few years until the ever increasing volume of mail, the addition of new carrier routes and the necessary carrier cases for some had led to such crowded working conditions that the need for a new and larger post office became most urgent. It was about 1930 during the administration of Postmaster Hiser, that work began on the present post office which was occupied November 1, 1932.

As I look back to those early days and the working conditions that prevailed at that time I realize they were rugged indeed. As a substitute the carrier had to learn first the routes, and he was required to go around three days with the regular carrier in order to become familiar with his route. For this he received no compensation. It was considered part of the job and his sole earnings was the money earned while working as a substitute for the regular carrier with the exception of a token salary of one dollar a year, and now and then the replacement of a broken corner collection box for which he received a dollar and fifty cents. But as he had to pay a drayman to haul the new box out and the broken box back, about all he derived from this work was experience. He could not take a job elsewhere due to the fact that he was required to be available when needed, and he was also required to buy his own uniform. The only work a substitute could look forward to having was during the vacation period (about three months) and two weeks at Christmas time. He, of course, would get a few days now and then when regular carrier was off

sick but the above was all he could feel sure of.

After becoming a regular carrier, his work day began at six o'clock, he had certain mail boxes to open on his way to work, reporting at the office at six-thirty where he cased, routed and tied up his mail for the first trip. He returned from this trip about eleven A. M. when he did his forwarding and looked up his nixes (letters wrongfully addressed). He reported for work in the afternoon at three o'clock and worked until about six, so that on short winter days he had to deliver part of his mail in the dark as best he could. On his return to the office he would again do his forwarding, look up nixes and post changes of address in his route directory. Every route had a directory containing the names of people who lived on the route with a blank space in which to record their new address if they moved. Due to numerous changes, the carrier had to compile a new directory about every three years which was a sizable job and was done on his own time.

Several years after I became a regular, the eight in ten hours law was passed, that is we worked an eight hours inside a ten hour day. This did away with delivering mail after dark as we were able to complete our afternoon trip by five o'clock. In these old days the carrier worked every day in the year with the exception of his fifteen days vacation (one trip or holidays) and all the mail for his route he carried on his back, so it was not unusual for a carrier to go out on a trip with two sacks of mail hung on him. The relay system which went into effect about 1923 in which large portions of a carrier's heavy mail are trucked out to storage boxes on his route did away with this. It not only made it easier on the carrier but it enabled him to make better time on his route and to handle a greater volume of mail thus being of benefit to both the public and the carrier. We worked Sundays also, between eight-thirty and nine-thirty, we handed out the mail to such patrons on our routes as called at the carrier windows for their mail. In the afternoon between four and five o'clock we made a trip around our route to collect the mail from the carrier boxes. Carriers throughout the country had petitioned Congress for several years to have this Sunday work done away with, and finally with the aid of a church organization, The Lord's Day Alliance, success crowned our efforts. Mail is still collected on Sunday but now it is done by a substitute carrier with a motor truck. Carriers still can be required to perform work on a Sunday but only in case of an emergency or during the Christmas rush and for this he is paid overtime.

Dogs were another matter with which carriers put up with. There were three kinds, the friendly dog who greeted you as an old friend and who quite frequently accompanied you on your route, the dog who paid no attention to you whatever, and the dog whose intentions were at all times hostile and who liked nothing better than to take a bite out of a letter carrier. We were not required to deliver mail to homes where there were vicious dogs but that fact did not prevent the dog from coming out as you passed and doing his stuff.

Christmas time in the old days was a night-mare and for that matter still is. At first we carried all of the mail on our backs and for several years there were days on which I left the office loaded down with five sacks of mail. Then we were allowed to have a helper, a boy pulling a wagon with a large box on it, but we had to pay these helpers ourselves. In later years, the Department allowed us a dollar, fifty cents a day for this purpose. The carrier himself for about a week put in twelve to thirteen hours a day but he was only paid for eight hours, the overtime was on his own. After several years, this injustice was corrected and the carrier was paid for his overtime, and working conditions gradually improved. For the past twenty years each carrier has had an adult helper who carries his first trip while the regular carrier remains in the office to get the mail ready for the second trip. Without these helpers and the relay system, it would be impossible to handle the immense volume of mail, so great has it become. Carriers still work twelve and thirteen hours a day Christmas week.

Sick leave was unheard of in the early days, neither was there a compensation law for carriers injured on duty, so that in either event the carrier was out of luck as his pay stopped. A further injustice was that if he had the misfortune to be laid up more than 150 days, he was out of a job, which required a special act of Congress to be restored to him. The compensation law, which takes care of employees injured on duty, and the ten days a year sick leave law, the latter being cumulative, went a long way in relieving these conditions. In July, 1931, the Saturday half holiday went into effect to be followed a few years later by the five day week. The Civil Service Retirement law passed in 1920, which provides an annuity for Civil Service employees upon their retirement, filled a long felt need. The necessary funds are provided by a percentage of the employees' salary (six per cent) and a Government contribution. It has been highly successful from the start and has enabled the retired employee to live his own life without being dependant on others.

Two types of mail quite common in the early years were the free Government seeds and the cheap magazines. The former especially was hard to handle for due to the size and shape of the seed packages they could not be routed in with letters or papers but had to be handled separately. Sample packages of soap, patent medicines, gum, etc. were also handled in large quantities and also required special handling. I think the worst experience in delivering these samples was the time a coffee firm sent a half pound tin of coffee to every person listed in the phone directory. Not only were they heavy, they were also bulky. Large catalogues sent out by mail order houses were another form of mail that was both bulky and heavy, but there is not so much of this today as these firms only send their catalogues on request. Two of the principal magazines in the early days of my service were the Delineator and the Pictorial Review but they have long

since passed from the scene. Others were the Youths' Companion and the Literary Digest. However their place has been taken by many more magazines so that today the volume of this form of mail is the greatest ever.

The advent of air mail was the culmination of many different forms of transportation of the U.S. mails - stage coach, pony express, dog teams in Alaska, boats, railway trains and the motor truck. Looking back to those early days I recall reading newspaper accounts about the efforts of a Professor Langley of Washington and the Wright Brothers to perfect a flying machine as the airplane was then called. Certainly I never thought then that years later I would be delivering air mail letters. An incident of the early days of air mail was the crash landing of a St. Louis, Chicago air mail plane piloted by Charles A. Lindbergh, a few miles southwest of Bloomington.

The addition of a new route to the delivery system involved most of the other routes in the changes and shifts necessary to make room for the new route, and it also made it necessary for the carrier to relabel his route case, a tedious job which was done on his own time.

On August 1, 1937, my son Russell became a substitute letter carrier and as such he was three years later to carry my route for several months after my retirement and prior to his appointment as a regular carrier. Carrying mail was the hardest kind of work and still is for that matter, but working conditions are now much improved over the old days. Thanks to the relay system carriers are no longer forced to carry the entire load, subs perform Sunday work and they also handle the special delivery mail, so that with working for carriers on vacation or off duty, they have almost steady employment.

The motto of the post office department is "Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor cold, nor gloom of night, stays these carriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." The foregoing can well apply to the letter carrier, both city and rural, for they are out in all kinds of weather, the winter time being the worst when they have to wade deep snow and contend with slippery walks and porches. Falls are frequent and often result in injuries. It was during the terrible sleet storm of December 17, 1924, that one of the carriers, O. J. Condon died as the result of a fall on the ice. As the horse drawn vehicle gradually gave way to the ever increasing number of automobiles and motor trucks, their greater speed created a hazard for the carrier in crossing back and forth across the street and I was to fall an early victim to this hazard in December, 1910, when I was run over by an automobile on North Main Street.

In World War Two postal employees of the Bloomington post office played their part serving both in the Army and Navy,

at home and overseas where their experience was made use of in Army and Navy post offices. I am happy to say that all of them came back.

I served under postmasters, J. A. Bohrer, M. M. Morrissey, E. E. Jones, Eugene Hiser, Acting Postmaster T. J. Salmon, and William Fahey. During my years of service I was to see many changes in the office personnel. Some left to take better paying jobs elsewhere, some because the work was too hard for them, some retired, some died and a very few were removed for cause. I do not feel that an article about the Bloomington post office would be complete without mention of Thomas J. Salmon, who could well be considered the grand old man of the post office. He was known to almost every one as Tom. He entered the service back in 1893 when the post office was located on the present site of the Montgomery Ward store and retired May 2, 1946 after fifty three years in the service, a record that few can equal and fewer still exceed. He was for many years superintendent of mails in the local office and served as acting post master for close on to a year between the administrations of postmaster Hiser and Fahey. Tom held a record as being one of the fastest mail distributors in the entire U. S. Postal Service and shortly after his retirement he was again to engage in his chosen work as an employee of the State Farm Insurance Company's mailing room.

For fifty years now my son and I together have been connected with the U.S. postal service and in those fifty years many things have happened. In 1900 there were but four automobiles in Bloomington, an electric runabout and three gas buggies. Today they crowd our streets and a horse drawn vehicle is a rare sight. Then many things such as the airplane, the submarine, radio, the atomic bomb and many others were as yet undreamed and unheard of, and history was made in two World Wars. Virtually all of these things happened during my years in the postal service and I am quite sure that had anyone told me fifty years ago that such things would come to pass I would have regarded them as being somewhat daffy.

It was with the deepest regret that I retired from the postal service, a step made necessary by failing health, for I at all times enjoyed and liked my work. I liked the folks on my route and enjoyed serving them, and I shall always believe that they also liked me for they were at all times kind and considerate. I regarded them as real friends of whom I shall always retain the most pleasant of memories. Since communication is one of the most important factors in a civilization I am proud that I as one of a great organization, the postal service, had a part in it, and proud that my son is playing his part. America has come a long way from the days of the pony express, and some day perhaps in the not too distant future, we may see mail delivered to Mars or the moon.

BRICKS AND MORTAR

SOME CHANGES
IN THE HOME TOWN IN THE CORN BELT
by
Abe Williams

SOME CHANGES IN THE HOME TOWN IN THE CORN BELT

by

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As I understand it the contributions to THE HOME TOWN IN THE CORN BELT are aimed to cover the last fifty years - 1900 to 1950.

As it so happens these years very nearly coincide with the years of my absence from Bloomington. I went to the then Oklahoma Territory in 1904 and remained until 1945, when I came back to live again in "HOME TOWN IN THE CORN BELT". During these years I made a number of visits back to Bloomington, visits separated by some years. Each time that I came back I would note things new to me and often note the absence of something that I had always been used to and regarded as fixtures.

My letter from home were mostly family news and nothing about civic improvements, so at each visit I had surprises and will mention some of them which would suddenly greet my gaze.

The fire of 1900 occurred before I went away and others will no doubt give details for the Home Town book.

The Peoria and Springfield fire departments sent men and apparatus and gave valuable help. Within a short time after the fire, the Peoria fire department had pictures of their department in action made by the wonderful new moving picture camera. They exhibited these wonderful moving pictures here in a tent, a short distance west of the Pantagraph building. As I recall, that was the first moving picture I ever saw. It was thrilling to see the horses drawing those big smoking fire engines dashing right at you. I suppose the nickelodeons were soon established here. The first one I saw was in Oklahoma City, I think about 1907. It was owned and operated by a former Bloomington boy, Ralph DeBruler.

Another change that occurred before I left Bloomington was the moving of the baseball grounds from the vicinity of Grove and Vale Streets to the south side Fans' Field. The

McLean County fair was held at the Grove and Vale location before the baseball park was established there. I had a small part in getting the fans out to the ball games at Grove and Vale and later to Fans' Field by street car. That is the way most of them went. There were very few autos then. The east side ball park was built up with fine homes.

In this connection let me digress with a little anecdote. There was to be a dance at a downtown hall and Erwin Lillard was slated to take a young lady who lived out in the new addition built on the former ball grounds. He demurred at first, saying "she lives too far out, she lives way out on second base".

It was while the ball grounds were at Fans' Field that the Chatauqua was held at Houghton's Lake. That was a highly educational undertaking, with many noted speakers, and also made good business for the street car company. If there was a ball game, the Chatauqua and a band concert at Miller Park on the same day it took some scrambling of street cars to handle the going and returning crowds but Bill Irvin, with the assistance of motormen and conductors like Dave Law, Ed McCarty, Dick Bumgardner, Frank Arnold, Bill Duke, Patsy Murray, Elmer Gibson, Matt Quin, Frank Hart, Kelly, Morris Motherway, Charley ("Peanuts") Harding, Knob Deacon, Tom Hawwell, Al Moore and Clarence ("Curly") Irvin and others, handled things pretty well.

Carrie Nation, the famed wielder of the hatchet in wrecking Kansas saloons (illegal places of course in that dry state) was one of the speakers at the Chatauqua. The afternoon she was to speak there was also a ball game at Fans' Field. I was acting as motorman on an extra car to the ball game and Chatauqua that day. It was one of those open cars with seats crossways, no middle aisle. The entire crowd on that car was composed of men going to the ball game. Carrie was the only woman passenger. She sat up in front and was recognized by the ball fans who began to kid her but she was good natured and kidded back at them. About at Lafayette street where the ball game crowd got off Carrie saw a building ahead, The McLean County Club, adjoining Main street, a part of the brewery. She said "what is that"? One of the ball fans said "that is the brewery, after the game we are all going there and drink beer". Carrie said "Oh, I know that you nice young men would not do that".

Autos were beginning to appear but very few and were fearful and wonderful to behold. The first in this country was in 1893, in Springfield, Mass. (I suppose of course that the Russians claim to have invented them long before that). An engineer on the C. & A. built one run by steam and would tear up and down Main street at the frightful speed of probably ten miles an hour. The first ride I had in an auto was in one owned by Sam Irwin. He took a bunch of us from the Illinois Club, (successor to the Bicycle Club) one night and drove clear to the end of east Grove Street and back in a very short time. It was very thrilling but to most of us bicycles remained the means of getting around

in a hurry.

In the early 90's, typewriters were not so common though some were in use by progressive firms. The custom had been a few years previous to copy letters by means of a letter press. The writing was done with copying ink and was copied in a tissue paper book by laying the letter face up on a sheet of heavy oiled paper, then turning the page of the book over on it and wetting it with a brush dipped in water, putting another oiled sheet on top and putting the book in the heavy iron press and tightening the press by screwing down with "elbow grease". In railroad freight offices the waybills were all copied by a large letter press. Instead of wetting the papers with a brush large cloths were used. They were always left in a tin tub or tank and run through a wash wringer so as not to be too wet and blur the writing. Some time in the 90's this method was changed and carbon paper was used.

After the B & N street car company was taken over by local men and John Eddy was manager I stayed with him in the little office at the car barn as I had been there with W. H. Patterson the former manager. The bookkeeping and legal work was done in A. E. DeMange's office where there was a typewriter. Mr. Eddy thought it would be a good thing to have a typewriter in our office, so he told me to get one. I went to the Pantagraph Printing & Stationary Co. which was then in the same building with the newspaper and bought one. I went to the Pantagraph and picked one of the cheapest, probably a used one. It was a CALAGRAPH. Sam ("Tink") Holder was the salesman I bought it from. I believe if it had been mounted on wheels and a few alterations made on it it could have been taken to a wheat field and used as a combine but it did the work all right and I pecked out letters for Mr. Eddy, who never would use a simple short word if he could think of a many syllable one with the same meaning.

In connection with the Pantagraph Printing & Stationary Co. there is a story that I am sure all the old timers heard. This is it. Dede Shackford was errand boy for the company. Captain Burnham had some work done there and when it was finished it was given to Dede with the instructions "take these to Burnham". Dede took the package down to the boiler room and threw it in the fire.

I am inclined to stray from the 1900 to 1950 era and drop into the 60, 65 or 70 year ago times of which I have many vivid memories. To avoid doing so I will get on with changes which confronted me on my visits between 1904 and 1945, when I returned to make my home in "THE HOME TOWN IN THE CORN BELT".

Here are some of the changes I noted in my visits back to the old home town, not in their chronological order, however.

The neat little union depot of the Big Four and L.E. & W. railroads. Each had had its own frame station a short way apart. The viaduct over the two railroads on South Main Street. The coming of the interurban electric railway in the heyday of that form of transportation. The enlarging of the C. & A. yards after the fire which destroyed the machine shop buildings and the threatened removal of the shops if the citizens did not come across with money needed for improvements. They subscribed the money and with the new show buildings and enlarged switching yard the C. & A. shops were still the largest industry in Bloomington. The Chestnut street crossing was closed to vehicles and a pedestrian subway built where "Stick" O'Niel used to guard that busy crossing. Other subways were built for vehicle and pedestrian traffic under the Illinois Central at Washington Street and at Oakland Avenue (formerly Clay Street). The commodious C. & A. depot replaced the old frame one. The old standpipe was torn down. It was one of the landmarks of Bloomington, 210 feet high, "the tallest standpipe in the U.S."

One of the thrills was a climb to the top of the standpipe for the view. Practically nothing could be seen of the city owing to great number of trees but a fine view of the surrounding country was to be had. Any adult could go to the waterworks and get the key to the iron door and make the climb to the top with as large a crowd as he wanted. The key was six or seven inches long and heavy.

Lake Bloomington was built and the water stored in an open reservoir which took the place of the city well. It was another thrill to go down into the city well by the wooden stairs.

The coal mine was abandoned and nothing left but the huge slag pile. When I was a small boy and would be at the C. & A. depot I would see the miners coming from the mine wearing their lamps on their caps in broad daylight. They did not bother to put them out. They were open flame kerosene lamps. There was a saloon across the tracks from the depot with a large sign on the front which read "NO MINORS ALLOWED". A great many of the miners headed for the saloon as soon as they came from the mine. It puzzled me to see the miners walk right into the saloon where no minors were allowed.

Stein's Grove was acquired by the city and became Forest Park. The brewery was abandoned and the beautiful rolling hills and trees of the brewery grounds became Highland Park, a nine hole municipal golf course. At the time I came back to make my home here in 1945, I discovered that it had become an eighteen hole course. O'Niel Park was established, the gift of a fine citizen, Mr. O'Niel, who loved his home town. Park Hill and East Lawn Memorial cemeterys were established.

Buses were installed to replace the street cars and a neat bus garage built near the South Main viaduct and all the car tracks removed.

The Livingston building, the Peoples bank building, the Pantagraph new building, the Telephone building, the huge State Farm Insurance building, the McBarnes building, the new post office, the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A., the Masonic Consistory, Brokaw Hospital, Mennonite Hospital, the new Holy Trinity church (replacing the burned one), Fellowship Hall (adjoining the First Christian Church), Presser Hall, Buck Memorial Library, Magill Hall (men's dorm), Annie Merner Pfeiffer Hall (women's dorm), on Wesleyan campus, the Wesleyan gymnasium, Memorial Center (also at Wesleyan), St. Joseph's Hospital Training School, Mennonite Hospital Nurses' Home, The Lucy Orme Morgan Home, The Booker Washington Home, Bloomington High School, Trinity High School and every grade school are some of the buildings erected in the last fifty years. The Municipal Community Stadium is another, it is in the old Sammon pasture where the North Side boys used to play ball. The McKnight building is another. It stands on the corner where Bloomington's first and only lynching took place, the victim was taken from the county jail which stood across the street at Center and Market and hanged to a large tree that stood in front of John Miller's blacksmith shop on the site of the McKnight building.

All of the buildings I have mentioned were outside of the burned district in the fire of 1900. All of those destroyed by the fire, east, north, and a few on the west of the court house, of course have been erected in the last fifty years.

The Bloomington-Normal sanitary District was established, with the substantial buildings and pretty flower garden west of town. Sugar Creek was paved all the way through Normal and Bloomington. Sugar Creek, dear to the memories to sixth ward boys and those of the close by section of Normal, where we went swimming in our birthday suits in Asa Moore's pasture, west of the old iron bridge on Main Street with the sign -- "FIVE DOLLARS FINE FOR CROSSING THIS BRIDGE FASTER THAN A WALK" -- and were chased out by Kelly, the Normal town marshal, was paved with concrete.

Those memories of Sugar Creek go back far beyond the fifty year period but they just seem to have written themselves in here where they do not belong but I will let them stand.

The boys of this day do not know
How the muddy waters used to flow
In Sugar Creek seventy years ago.
That was the "crick" about which we raved.
Now, believe it or not, the "crick" is paved.

The big Funk Brothers Seed Company, The Ralston Company plant, the Meadows plant, the expansion of the Williams

Oilomatic Company into the huge Eureka Williams plant are some more changes in the last fifty years.

The Lakeside Golf Club and the enlarging of the Bloomington Country Club golf course from nine to eighteen holes are some more changes.

The establishment of the Manufactured Ice Company is another. That was the doom of the natural ice companies with their horsedrawn wagons and the drivers who would throw a chunk of ice over the fence, holler "Ice" and drive on, leaving us to go get the ice, wash off the sawdust and put it in the old fashioned ice boxes.

The Lafayette apartments and the Oaks apartment (hiding the fine old Gridley home) are two more changes.

The consolidation of the fire department into one station instead of four widely separated ones and the conversion from horse drawn to motorized equipment is a far cry from the old days when "Shorty" O'Neil drove the hose reel, pulled by one horse, and was always the first to reach the fire, and M. X. Chuse, the chief, went to fires on horseback and would also lead parades, mounted on his fine horse and carrying his silver trumpet (used to shout orders to his men at a fire). There I go again back to the too far off days.

There was the great paving project when practically all of the streets were paved, taking the old town out of the mud.

Among the many changes, North Main Street had its share. Though some of the fine houses are still there, they have changed from family homes to Wesleyan fraternity and sorority houses and funeral homes. Others have been torn down and replaced by commercial buildings, for instance, the red stone Thornton Snell mansion, the B. F. Funk home and the Judge Tipton (later A. M. Richards, the General McNulta) home.

Speaking of Judge Tipton - a little anecdote as I heard it - An Egyptian mummy was on display down town for a small fee. One of Judge Tipton's friends asked him what he thought of the mummy. The Judge replied "mummies ain't my kind of people".

One of the greatest changes on North Main was the building of Ridgewood Terrace on the Asa Moore home place. We lived adjoining Asa Moore on the north. The house, number 1409, is now the Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority house. Back in our boyhood days my brother Scott and I, while burning some brush in our back garden, set fire to Asa Moore's barn, which stood where one of those pretty Ridgewood Terrace houses is now. Asa spotted it and came running out in his "dressing gown" and slippers, with his long white beard flowing in the breeze, grabbed a ladder and a bucket of water. He mounted the ladder with a "dammm" at each step,

put out the fire and went back to his seat under a tree where he kept watch for boys who would come into the big tree filled yard to hunt bird nests.

Practically all of the changes in the "Home Town in The Corn Belt" are for the better but there is one that is not. That is the passing of the old Grand Opera House (later the Chatterton, then the Illini). The old building stands empty now but must be haunted by the ghosts of the finest actors and actresses of those bygone days and productions from Hamlet to The Black Brook. Most of the number one road shows played one night stands there, it being convenient on account of being about half way between Chicago and St. Louis.

Soon after the fire of 1900 the burned section north, east and a small section to the west was rebuilt with buildings modern for their time. In the passing years of 1900 to 1950 a great many of the old buildings on Main and Center streets spared by the fire have put in handsome modern first floor fronts but a glance above the first floor of many of them reveals how buildings were built 75 or 80 years ago.

The Hotel Illinois replaced the Windsor, which was destroyed in the fire. The Windsor had replaced the Ashley House, which I remember in my boyhood. I once saw General Grant standing outside the Ashley House having his shoes shined by a boy with his little portable box, on which General Grant was resting his foot. The General had stopped here on his return from his around the world trip to see some of his friends who had served with him in the civil war. That was in 1878 that he was here, too far back to have a place in this article but it slipped in anyhow. The Hills House was remodeled and became the Tilden Hall. The J.F. Humphreys wholesale grocery warehouse was remodeled and became the Hotel Rogers.

A short time after I came back to live in the old home town after my long absence, I was contemplating a trip to Sterling, Illinois. We used to make the trip by taking the Illinois Central to Dixon and changing there to the C. & N.W. I went out East Grove to the I.C. and looked up toward the depot and it seemed to have changed, looked a lot smaller. I walked up to the little building and went in. It did not look much like a railroad station. I was puzzled. The sole occupant was a young lady. I said I wanted to enquire about the train time and fare to Dixon. She said "We have had no passenger train for six years". It was things like that that would impress me after my long absence from the old town. A neat brick depot had been built in the 1900 to 1950 period to replace the old frame one and now it was gone and no depot at all and no passenger trains, not so good I thought. But then we have the autos, buses and trucks in place of the trains. Maybe in the next fifty years we will have to go back to railroad travel or planes.

The highways surely will not be able to accommodate the increasing traffic.

Here is another change that occurs to me in the old town. The soldiers' monument and the old civil war cannons have been removed from Franklin Park. The base of the old monument now stands in the Briarwood section of Normal. The names of the soldiers, carved on it, except a very few, have been obliterated by time and the elements. A new monument was erected in Miller Park. The brass barrels of the old cannons have also been removed there. The wooden wheels and the carriages rotted away.

There are some outdoor signs on business places, quite common in the old home town fifty years ago, that we do not see now. The drug stores had a big wooden mortar and pestle above the door and inside there were two tall glass tubes of colored liquid, one red, one green or blue. The jewelers had a large wooden watch with the hands at twenty minutes past eight. The dentists had a huge molar tooth. The shoemakers (cobblers) had a big boot. The pawnbrokers had three gold colored balls. The harness shops had a life size horse, a dapple gray, the gun shops a large wooden gun, the livery stables a large painting of spirited horse hitched to a snappy buggy, the opticians a large pair of spectacles, the tin shops some article in their line such as a bucket or tub. The saloons in the downtown district had oleanders growing in tubs on the walk outside their places and sawdust on their floors, incidently they were not cluttered up with women. Some clothing stores had headless dummies displaying mens' suits on the sidewalks outside their stores.

We have been proud of our little city through all the years, especially the last fifty. Bloomington became a "city" in 1850. Though others have passed it in population, they have not done so in being a good place to live. In my school days we were the fifth city in population in Illinois. Only Chicago, Peoria, Quincy and Springfield outranked us in population. At the census of 1940 we were about the twentieth in population but still the best place to live.

Going back beyond the 1900 to 1950 years, I recall how proud we were of our city. On one of his frequent trips to Chicago my father took my brother Scott and me with him. We were just small boys. My father was standing outside the Grand Pacific Hotel talking to a friend, a Chicago man. He said to the Chicago man "These are my boys". The Chicago man said "Well, boys, you are from the country, eh". Scott bristled up and said "No sir, we are from Bloomington."

I have mentioned some of the changes in the physical appearances of "THE HOME TOWN IN THE CORN BELT" in the last fifty years. Most of these were to the east and north of the Court House square, but not all of them by any means.

"Silk Stocking Row", Pone Hollow, South Hill, the Forty Acres and the North Side shared in them.

Back in the days of the SUNDAY EYE, George Hutchins, editor of that paper, used to say of the EVERGREEN CITY, in his paper -- "BLOOMINGTON IS THE DIAMOND ON THE BRESTPIN OF ILLINOIS."

How right he was.

Bloomington, September 1949

A.W.

MAJOR'S HALL

(Bloomington's Historic Lincoln Shrine.)

The famous "Lost Speech" was delivered there,
Major Hall's plaque informs the passerby;
But flames having scorched it beyond repair,
Where Lincoln spoke, is open to the sky,
As though such winging words, such eloquence,
Limits of roof or walls could not contain;
But must burst forth to echo ages hence,
Though hearers tried to repeat them in vain.

It stands, original top story gone,
Where once slavery's aroused opponents met,
To launch a movement that went rolling on,
Browning and Lovejoy, Palmer, Judd and Swett,
After that impassioned appeal they heard,
Came out resolved, radiant, strangely stirred.

James Hart

A HISTORY OF BANKING IN BLOOMINGTON
DURING THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

by

Carl L. Niedermeyer
Roger S. Getty
Clyde A. Johnston
Jack L. Sprague
Charles S. Kirkpatrick

P R E F A C E

At the turn of the Century, Bloomington had five Banks as follows:

First National Bank,

State National Bank,

Third National Bank,

Corn Belt Bank,

Peoples Bank of Bloomington.

Their Total Deposits amounted to about Five Million Dollars.

In 1900 Banking hours were from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

These hours have been gradually shortened due to the introduction of the 40 hour week and recently by the law passed by the Illinois Legislature making it optional with Banks to have a five day week. Bloomington Banks did not take advantage of this law but shortened the hours so that at the present time Banking Hours are from 9:30 A. M. to 2:00 P.M. excepting on Saturday when they are 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 Noon.

Machines also have played a large part in the operation of Banks. In 1900 an occasional typewriter was the only machine to be found in a Banking room. Step by step modern adding machines, accounting and book-keeping machines, coin counters and sorters and photographic equipment have changed banking operations so that they would be hardly recognizable to the Bank clerk of 1900.

Bloomington Banks, as did Banks all over the country, did a big job in the financing of the two World Wars in the selling of Government Bonds to the People. Perhaps the outstanding difference in the financing of these two wars was the type of bonds sold to the public. During World War I the only type of bonds sold were the so-called Liberty Bonds. These were regular coupon bonds that were quoted on the exchanges from day to day and at one time they went down to \$5.00 or thereabouts. During World War II a large part of the bonds that were offered to the public were the smaller savings bonds that were registered in the name of the original purchaser and were redeemable only by the Government or its designated agencies. These bonds not being negotiable could not be bought and sold on the exchanges so that their value was guaranteed, there being no fluctuation.

During 1932 as heavy drains were made on the Banking Institutions of the Country many of them had to close their doors as their funds were tied up in non-liquid assets and they could not stand the demands for withdrawals. To protect those banks that were solvent, one by one the

Governors of the various states declared Banking Moratoriums closing all the Banks in their states temporarily to inquire into their standing. This was followed on March 4, 1933 by an order by President Franklin D. Roosevelt closing all the Banks in the Country for examination and re-capitalization permitting Banks to re-open only when it was found that they were financially sound and able to stand the withdrawals that would be made on them.

Close on the heels of this moratorium came the Banking Act of 1933 which permitted Banks to sell preferred stock of their institution to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation or to the public as additional capital was needed. This Act also instituted Government insurance of Bank Deposits so that the Deposits of any one individual are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to the extent of \$5,000.00. This legislation acted as a stabilizer of the hectic condition existing.

Now only two of the Banks that were in existence in Bloomington in 1900 are doing business in their then form, namely the Corn Belt Bank and the Peoples Bank of Bloomington.

The State National Bank and Third National Bank merged with the First National Bank at different times to form what emerged after the Banking Moratorium of 1933 as the National Bank of Bloomington.

Two New Banks have been formed since 1900 namely the American State Bank and the McLean County Bank.

The story of these Banks appears on the following pages:

Peoples Bank of Bloomington,
Story by C. L. Niedermeyer.

Corn Belt Bank,
Story by Roger S. Getty

American State Bank,
Story by Clyde A. Johnston

McLean County Bank,
Story by Jack L. Sprague,

National Bank of Bloomington,
Story by Charles S. Kirkpatrick.

One other Bank, The Liberty State Bank was organized in 1918 and at one time had about One Million Dollars in Deposits. This Bank did not open after the moratorium of 1933 and subsequently went into receivership. The Depositors were finally paid about 54% of their funds.

PEOPLES BANK OF BLOOMINGTON

The Peoples Bank of Bloomington was incorporated by a special act of the Legislature on March 4, 1859 and opened for business in a room on the North side of Washington Street just west of Center Street. Shortly after opening for business the Bank purchased from Mr. A. Brokaw the corner on which the bank has been located ever since. Contracts were let for the construction of the first Bank building which was occupied a year or so after incorporation.

The Bank was originally capitalized at \$100,000.00. Of the amount the subscribers for stock paid in \$45,000.00, giving their notes for the balance, \$55,000.00. As earnings accrued from time to time the dividends were credited on these notes and by 1880 they were all paid off and the capital of \$100,000.00 was fully paid in. In 1881 the Bank started a program of cash dividends to stockholders which has been continuous ever since.

The incorporators were George W. Parke, Lawrence Weldon, Robert E. Williams, John L. Routt, Lyman Ferre, Benjamin F. Hoopes, Dwight Harwood, Almon B. Ives, George F. Dick, Norval Dixon and Charles E. Dodge.

The original Board of Directors consisted of George W. Parke, Norval Dixon, J. L. Routt, Dwight Harwood and Jesse A. Wilson. Dr. Geo. W. Parke was the Bank's first President. Subsequent Presidents were Peter Whitmer, J. O. Willson, F. D. Marquis, W.L. Moore and George F. Dick, Jr.

The Bank building was directly in the path of the big fire of June 19, 1900 there being a strong wind from the northeast and it was only by diligent work of a volunteer bucket brigade quenching numerous fires on the roof catching from flying embers that the building was saved. The day after the fire part of the banking room was temporarily turned over to one of the other banks whose room was destroyed.

The present seven story Bank and office building was occupied on August 5, 1911.

After the banking moratorium in 1933 the Peoples Bank was the first one in Bloomington to open-only a day after the Chicago banks reopened and for several weeks was the only bank in the city doing business. At that time the Capital was raised from \$100,000.00 to \$200,000.00.

At present the Capital, Surplus, Undivided Profits and Reserves is in excess of \$1,400,000.00 and total deposits are \$26,000,000.00.

The present officers are Geo. F. Dick, Jr., President; Geo. R. Morrison, Executive Vice-President; Geo. F. Dick III, Vice-President, Orin E. Meeker, Cashier; Robert K. O'Neill and Charles O. LaDuc, Assistant Cashiers; C. L. Niedermeyer, Secretary and Harry E. Riddle, Trust Officer. The Board of Directors consists of Geo. F. Dick, Jr., Geo. R. Morrison, Hudson Burr, Dr. J. K. P. Hawks and Robert P. Whitmer.

The original location of the bank was on the west side of the square where the building was built by Geo. F. Dick, Jr. They were at this location until the fire in 1881. The day after the fire, they moved operations at 400 N. Main Street. In the meantime, the building at 400 N. Main Street was being built. In 1881, they moved to their present location and occupied the first floor of the building.

In 1881, an extensive remodeling program was undertaken which resulted in the development of the safety deposit box department. In the basement and the entire space was located as storage space.

For the present, the bank has built a new building and a large addition and developed the first savings department in Minneapolis. Some of the old building, which was not used, was torn down. The new and large building was completed and the old building was retained as the present building and the new building.

In March 1917, a general reorganization of the bank was made and headed by the addition of public accounts and other new departments. The bank has been very successful in its development.

In 1917, the bank was the first in Minneapolis to actively engage in the insurance business. The bank has been very successful in its development.

There has been very little change of stock in the bank since 1917. The bank has been very successful in its development.

CORN BELT BANK

The Corn Belt Bank of Bloomington, Illinois, was organized under the Laws of Illinois and issued a charter to commence operation on December 2nd, 1891. The original officers were as follows: John McNulta, President; J. T. Snell, Vice President; and A. S. Eddy, Cashier. The above named officers together with the following men constituted the first Board of Directors. Joe G. Moore, D. O'Neil, W. J. Baldrige, John M. Stipp, T. J. Burns, V. E. Howell, T. B. Kilgore, R. Wundulich, and H. D. Humphreys.

The original location of the bank was on the east side of the square which now would be 213 N. Main Street. They were at this location until the fire in 1900. The day after the fire, they resumed operations at 425 N. Main Street, in the insurance office operated by Robert McIntire, and that was their location at the time the present building was built. In 1901, they moved to their present location and occupied the first floor of the building.

In 1922, an extensive remodeling program was completed which resulted in the development of the safety deposit box department in the basement and the entire space was included as working space.

For the record, the Corn Belt Bank pioneered and started advertising and developed the first savings department in Bloomington. Some of the old records indicate that four per cent interest was paid. The rules and regulations governing the savings department were printed on the passbooks in both English and German.

On March 23, 1927, a permit to establish a trust department was issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts and since that day, many trust matters both large and small have been handled by this department.

In more recent years, the bank was the first in Bloomington to actively engage in the personal loan financing and conducted an extensive advertising program in developing that department.

There has been many transfers of stock in the fifty-eight years of our existence but there still remains in the hand of the heirs of the original holders a substantial amount of the stock.

The present Board of Directors is made up of the following individuals: Clay G. Dooley, Ralph J. Heffernan, Dr. A. D. Shaffer, Lewis W. Probasco, H. D. Hanger, Len E. Jones, and C. R. McElheny. The officers are Ralph J. Heffernan, Chairman; of the Board; C. R. McElheny, President; A. D. Shaffer and Roger S. Getty, Vice-Presidents; C. C. Baldwin, Trust Officer and Cashier; Wm. S. Rediger and H. M. Frank, Assistant Cashiers.

The Capital structure consists of Capital, Surplus, Undivided Profits and Reserves of \$510,000.00 and there is a total of \$10,500,000.00 in deposits.

A AMERICAN STATE BANK.

The GERMAN AMERICAN BANK opened for business on May 2, 1902 with the following officers: Albert Wochner, President; Paul F. Beich and Frank Oberkoetter, Vice-Presidents; James Neville, Cashier and Adolph Wochner and Herman Wochner, Assistant Cashiers. The first Board of Directors consisted of Albert Wochner, Paul F. Beich, Frank Oberkoetter, Edward T. Fahey, Gustave Buescher, B. F. Hoopes and James Neville.

During World War I the name of this bank was changed to AMERICAN STATE BANK.

Subsequent Presidents of the American State Bank were Herman Wochner, Everett Beal and Leonard Wochner.

The present officers are Leonard Wochner, President; J. Stuart Wyatt, Vice President and Cashier; Francis Wochner, Vice President; George Gielow and Clyde A. Johnston, Assistant Cashiers; Roy Kinler, Trust Officer and John Peffer, Auditor. The Board of Directors consists of James D. A. Gail, Leonard Wochner, Francis X. Wochner, P. A. Washburn, Will F. Costigan, Louis L. Williams and Paul M. Beich.

The present Capital Structure consists of Capital, Surplus, Undivided Profits and Reserves of \$550,000.00 with total Deposits of \$8,000,000.00.

MC LEAN COUNTY BANK

On June 17, 1903 the Auditor of the State of Illinois issued a 99 year Bank Charter to the McLean County Bank, Bloomington, Illinois. The following were named as incorporators: Lee Rust, H. W. McClure, W. B. Carlock, A. J. Barr, C. D. Myers, and Henry Hasenwinkle.

A stockholders meeting of the McLean County Bank, Bloomington, Illinois was held July 1, 1903. The following gentlemen were elected directors: Joseph Bean, Jr., A. J. Barr, H. S. Dooley, B. S. Green, W. W. Hall, George McIntosh, George F. Dick, Robert T. Lain, Lee Rust, H. W. McClure and George W. White.

At a directors meeting of the McLean County Bank, Bloomington, Illinois, held July 6, 1903, the following officers were elected: Lee Rust, President; George F. Dick, Vice President; Robert T. Lain, Cashier; and A. S. Eddy, Assistant Cashier.

The Leader Building located at the Southwest corner of Washington and East Streets was secured as temporary banking quarters. The Bank opened for business August 2, 1903.

The McLean County Bank moved to the Milner Building located at 106 West Washington Street on October 24, 1903.

On January 15, 1909 the Bank moved to the Northeast corner of Main and Washington, 201 N. Main Street, and remained there until December 9, 1935, at which time the Bank moved to its present location at 119 North Main Street.

Lee Rust served as President of the Bank until March 22, 1929 at which time he resigned and was named Chairman of the Board of Directors.

He was succeeded by Walter L. Rust, who served as President until October 21, 1933 and then resigned to take the office of President of the Federal Land Bank of St. Louis, Missouri.

Howard H. Rust was then elected to the office of President and is still serving in that capacity.

The McLean County Bank was incorporated under their State Charter with a capital of \$100,000.00. Today in our 46th year the Bank has a capital of \$100,000.00, surplus \$100,000.00, undivided profits \$205,000.00, and reserves \$34,000.00, with a total deposits of \$6,000,000.00.

The present officers are H. H. Rust, President; H. K. Dick and Walter Meers, Vice Presidents; F. L. Brown, Cashier; J. L. Sprague, D. L. Rust and L. T. Lanier, Assistant Cashiers. The Directors are H. H. Rust, H. K. Dick, Walter Meers, C. E. Irvin, W. L. Rust, W. J. Cash, H. M. Stone, Aaron Brooks and John P. Becker.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF BLOOMINGTON OF 1934

Its History together with that of Previous Banks from which it was an Outgrowth The Bank of Bloomington

A pioneer bank of which The National Bank of Bloomington was the natural outgrowth was organized in 1857 under the name of the Bank of Bloomington, and was located on the south side of the public square, or at 106 West Washington Street, and was in existence for about seven years. This bank had not purchased the bonds of the southern states which were effected by depreciated values caused by the Civil War. Some banks that found themselves with these bonds had to discontinue. Therefore, the Bank of Bloomington was enabled to finance the farmers as well as business concerns that needed loans. In those days corn was selling for 10¢ a bushel and money was being loaned at the rate of 2% a month, or about 24% a year.

Some of the stockholders in this bank, which went out of existence in about 1864, banded together and with other citizens organized in 1865 The National Bank of Bloomington, opening its doors on January 23rd. The incorporators were Judge David Davis, Isaac Funk, James H. Robinson, Edward Thorp, C. H. Moore, and Gen. William W. Orme. Its first officers were: James H. Robinson, President, Edward Thorp, Cashier, Charles W. Robinson and C. B. Perrigo, Assistant Cashiers. Its list of stockholders included the names of some of the most successful and pioneer farmers, judges, and businessmen of that period. The location of the bank was at 121 North Main Street — its present site. One officer of the bank came directly from the Home Bank in 1875, and had a continuing service of over fifty years with the bank. His name was J. Dickey Templeton, a civic leader and great humanitarian.

In 1871, the year of the great Chicago fire, which was referred to in the records of the minutes of the Board of Directors, and the recording of such appropriate measures taken as were deemed necessary at the time for the welfare of the Bank as well as for consideration of its corresponding bank in Chicago were narrated therein.

In 1873, a contraction of the currency caused by the proposed return to specie payments brought on the panic of that year, and hard times followed through 1877.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BLOOMINGTON

In 1885, the name of The National Bank of Bloomington was changed to that of the First National Bank of Bloomington in order to have the bank avail itself of new national banking laws and provisions. In 1889, the

present building of red stone of five stories, which the bank now occupies, was built, and was one of the most modern of that day.

The next change to the structure of the bank was in 1911 when the First National Bank was merged with that of the Third National Bank of Bloomington. When this absorption took place, the Board of Directors of the First National Bank were Duncan M. Funk, A. B. Funk, George W. Funk, George P. Davis, J. D. Robinson, C. W. Robinson, and W. H. Brown, with Duncan M. Funk serving as President.

The Third National Bank was organized in 1882, being an outgrowth of the McLean County Bank, started by General Gridley in 1853. Its first president was J. S. Rush, its first cashier was T. J. Bunn, and its vice presidents J. J. Condon and S. W. Waddle. Its first location was at 112 North Center Street, and in 1902 it moved to the Northwest corner of Main and Front Streets, where it continued and the above amalgamation took place.

Many of the stockholders of the old Third National Bank became stockholders in the new and enlarged institution, and many were prominent businessmen of the day. Alonso Dolan, C. W. Harlan, and C. W. Klema of that bank later became directors of the First National Bank.

One of the largest financial mergers that ever took place in Central Illinois was in 1921 when the State Bank of Bloomington, the Illinois Savings and Trust Company and which included the Illinois Title and Trust Company, the Safe Deposit Company, L. B. Thomas & Son Insurance Company, merged with the First National Bank, the First Trust and Savings Bank of Bloomington (to be organized), and the First Title and Securities Company. The Illinois Savings and Trust Company had succeeded in location the Third National Bank, which was absorbed in 1911. The first officers of the First Trust and Savings Bank were: President, Wilbur M. Carter; Vice President, Harris K. Hoblitt; Vice President and Trust Officer, William J. Carter; Cashier, Miss Leone Robinson; and Assistant Cashier, Thomas E. Freed. The first board of directors was composed of the following: Wilbur M. Carter, Harris K. Hoblitt, Homer W. Hall, Frank M. Rice, and Charles W. Robinson. In 1924, Stuart Wyatt became an officer in this bank and B.A. Franklin in 1926.

In 1878, the National State Bank of Bloomington was organized, with J. H. Cheney as one of the prime promoters. Its first president was Frank Hoblitt and first teller A. B. Hoblitt, and the following also served on the Board of Directors: Jacob Funk, I. Vanorstrand, C.C. Aldrich, R.F. Evans, and Lafayette Funk. Its first location was at 211 North Main Street.

In 1889, the National State Bank absorbed the banking house of R.P. Smith and Sons. In the year of 1902, the name of the National State Bank of Bloomington was changed to that of the State National Bank of Bloomington, and the bank then became located at 201 North Main Street.

In 1907, the State National Bank moved into its new building where it had one of the finest and most commodious banking rooms in the state. It also carried on the State Trust and Savings Bank which was owned by the same stockholders, as well as the State Safe Deposit Company. This bank building was conceived, planned, and executed by A. B. Hoblit and stands as a credit to his name.

In 1920, the State National Bank changed its title to that of the State Bank of Bloomington. Mr. H. K. Hoblit was the President and E. M. Hoblit, cashier. J. J. Condon was Chairman of the Board of Directors, and W. L. Evans and Deane N. Funk, Vice Presidents.

The business of these merged banks was carried on in the two buildings, that of the First National Bank being remodeled extensively. The latter part of the 1920's was marked by depletion in values of both real estate and personal property.

Serving as president of the bank was Wilber M. Carter, who with the following formed the Board of Directors: John J. Condon, David Davis, Alonso Dolan, B. A. Franklin, Deane N. Funk, Isaac G. Funk, Homer W. Hall, G.M. Harlan, Harris K. Hoblit, Campbell Holton, C.W. Klemm, G.B. Read, Frank M. Rice, and Dana F. Rollins.

On April 8, 1930, Wilber M. Carter tendered his resignation as president and director, and on May 6, 1930, Harris K. Hoblit was elected president of the bank as well as serving as president of the First Trust and Savings Bank of Bloomington and the First Title and Securities Company.

As typical of the times it is well to quote partly from President Harris K. Hoblit's report to the stockholders of the bank on the prevailing conditions in 1930, as follows:

"The last few years have been trying ones in the banking business, and many banks have suffered from the depression whether they were located in the City or the Country. The City banks have had their problems incident to the stock market crash and depressed real estate values. The country banks, of which we are one, have been faced with a condition which when it started was believed to be of a temporary nature, lasting from one to five years, but which has proven to be permanent at least for the last ten years. I refer to agricultural conditions. Our good farm lands before the war were readily salable at prices ranging between \$250.00 and \$300.00 an acre. Almost over night those values were wiped out and the sale price reduced to \$125.00 to \$150.00 an acre with few buyers. This condition was not the fault of any individual or set of individuals but was due to economic conditions over which there was no control. Under such circumstances, men and women who at one time were considered desirable credit risks were placed in the position of not being able to meet their obligations. Banks generally, I think, adopted the position of trying to work these matters out with a view of harming the individual and community to the least possible extent. As

matters have worked out, of course, it would have been better to have collected all of these accounts relentlessly, but I do not think that there was one person in a hundred that would have thought it the wise course to pursue at the time the depression started. Through the intervening years, the National Banking Department has been shortening its measuring stick each year until the stick they now use would not be recognized ten years ago."

FIRST NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY OF BLOOMINGTON

On November 1, 1930 was the opening date of the First National Bank and Trust Company of Bloomington, with a capital stock of \$300,000.00 and a surplus of \$100,000.00. The formation of this bank was a sequence of the First National Bank of Bloomington and the First Trust and Savings Bank of Bloomington, the depositors' liability of these banks being taken over and assumed by the new bank. The directors of this bank remained the same as were in the First National Bank of Bloomington. In 1932, John J. Condon, a great business leader, died. On January 12, 1932, W.C. Spafford became a director on the Board.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF BLOOMINGTON

On March 3, 1933, the First National Bank and Trust Company was closed with the other banks by the Presidential Moratorium. First a comptroller and then a receiver in turn were appointed over the assets of the bank. Mr. A. D. Hills served as receiver, with W.V. McKinzie as Assistant. Both of these gentlemen were from Pontiac, and contributed much to the welfare of the bank. Then followed a period in which plans were made for complete reorganization, which resulted in the formation and opening of an entirely new institution on June 7, 1934, The National Bank of Bloomington.

Three men, none of whom had been connected with the management of the bank -- Grover C. Helm, Ned E. Dolan, and Charles S. Kirkpatrick -- assisted by the Board of Trustees' most capable secretary, Lucy J. Comstock -- undertook and did liquidate the deposit liability of some 6,600 depositors of the First National Bank and Trust Company, even paying interest on the deferred certificates. Their services were given without any remuneration to themselves, and none was thought of. Over the country it is said that this proved to be an outstanding record. The liquidation of the First National Bank, the First Trust and Savings Bank, and the First National Bank and Trust Company was given to this same committee of three.

The National Bank of Bloomington was formed by the subscription of \$62,500 through its common stock by depositors -- there being an over-subscription above this amount that was necessary of 10%; subscription to \$50,000.00 in stock by the stockholders in the First National Bank and Trust Company; securing \$250,000.00 from an assessment on the stock of the old First National Bank; and securing waivers of 50% from depositors on the unsecured deposits of \$1,630,000.00 in the bank.

It is worthy of comment that in the formation year and on June 7, marking the opening, the common stock of the bank was \$75,000.00, paid in surplus, \$30,000.00 undivided profits, \$7,500.00, or a total of \$112,500.00. On the opening date \$75,000.00 in preferred stock was issued, being purchased by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. In February 1940, it was necessary to add to the financial structure of the bank the sum of \$100,000.00 by the selling of preferred stock which was done to local stockholders of the bank. Since then all the preferred stock, irrespective of its date of issue, has been paid off. The sum of \$175,000.00 has been distributed to common stockholders in the form of stock dividends — being an amount of better than 2-1/3 shares of common stock to each original common stockholder in addition to the stock first held. The bank has also paid in cash dividends to its stockholders the sum of \$201,614.50. Since the bank was opened it has earned, after deduction for taxes, an average for the fifteen years \$47,874.00.

While the deposits on June 7, 1934 were \$814,293.69, they have grown through the years until on June 2, 1949 they were \$12,418,817.36. Ever since its formation, Grover C. Helm has served as its president. The directors of the bank are: Henry C. Borenz, Henry W. Capen, Ned E. Dolan, John B. Feluley, Theodore Funk, Grover C. Helm Edward R. Kirkpatrick, and W.A. Matheson.

The following is a list of officers and employees of The National Bank of Bloomington as of July 1, 1949: Grover C. Helm, President and Assistant Trust Officer; Shelton B. Leach, Cashier and Trust Officer; Balnar F. Schnepf, Assistant Cashier; Charles F. Helm, Assistant Cashier; Lucy J. Constock, Assistant Trust Officer; Richard A. Middleton, Assistant Cashier; Leona G. South, Secretary, Elveta L. Sieg, Secretary; Robert R. Webber, Auditor; Lola L. Martin, Bookkeeper; Dorothy E. Barnes, Bookkeeper; Harold L. Lanier, Teller; Willard C. Lage, Teller; Wendall Augspurger, Teller; George Connelly, Teller; Helen Kelley, I.B.M. Clerk; Harriet Watson, Bookkeeper; Irene Schonert, Bookkeeper; Marilyn Jetton, Bookkeeper, Betty Rowland, Bookkeeper; Rita Frye, Vault Custodian; Billie Ann Kincaid, Clerk; Ruby Bossette, Clerk; and Donald H. Willard, Farm Manager.

The following is a list of former representatives of not only The National Bank of Bloomington and the First National Bank and Trust Company of Bloomington, but also all of the previous and intervening banks that were connected with these two banks. A number of them afterwards became presidents and officers in other banks in Bloomington or in other cities, or are now holding responsible positions in professional, commercial, agricultural, or other fields of activity: Lloyd Abbey, W.H. Atkinson, Yontz Bennett, Sr., John A. Brokaw, William H. Brown, Ray Carlock, Cecil M. Compton, Frank Cook, Jr., Clifford H. Coolidge, W.H. Greber, Edward Delano, Ned E. Dolan, Raymond Dooley, David M. Drum, Thomas E. Freed, Jacob Funk, H.E. Craff, Harry Hall, F.L. Heins, Paul Huesbschman, Chas. L. Hulva, Harry Humes, Chas. O. Johnson, Henry Klafke, William B. Kitchell, Jewel F. Lynch, Harold Mathis, Orin E. Meeker,

Louis B. Merwin, Carl Messick, William V. McKinzie, Francis Middleton, Gill Middleton (now Monsignor Middleton), W.L. Moore, George R. Morrison, John T. Pearson, John Quindry, Owen T. Reeves, Jr., Frank A. Rinehart, Milford W. Schueler, Charles Sendele, Harry Tenney, Homer C. Wagner, S. Stuart Wyatt, Melvin Zweng.

OBSERVATIONS

Just as the first National Bank was organized in 1865 under the name of The National Bank of Bloomington, so in 1934 — a span of 69 years — the succeeding institution coincidentally chose the title of The National Bank of Bloomington. As the Bank of Bloomington was the pioneer of all the above named connective banks, was organized in 1857, it would show a record of continuous banking of ninety-two years. Just as the Bank of Bloomington of 1861-64 and The National Bank of Bloomington in 1873 and the First National Bank in 1893 and in 1921 assisted these farmers and businessmen in financial distress brought on by panics and hard times, so did the new National Bank of Bloomington of 1934 assist the stock men, farmers, and businessmen when they were in dire need of assistance. Through bad times and good times in the development of this country these connecting banks have served depositors and the people of Central Illinois.

It was this red stone five-story building that was instrumental in stopping and serving as a barrier against the spreading of Bloomington's greatest destructive fire in 1900. When the building was sand-blasted in 1937, some of the old debris of that fire was disgorged from the exterior walls.

The system of banking has greatly changed from many years ago when a man's character with his written promise to pay was acceptable for loans in striking contrast of today when a man's character and his written promise to pay must be supplemented by collateral or satisfactory statement of assets in the ownership of the borrower.

The National Banking Act, in its present form, makes it impossible to subject the owners of the shares of stock in the National Bank to double liability.

It is interesting to recall that the first depositor in the National Bank of Bloomington was Thomas W. Stevenson, then residing in Hudson, Illinois. Mr. Stevenson is a brother of Vice President of the United States Adlai E. Stevenson, and a great uncle of the present Governor of Illinois, Adlai E. Stevenson, Jr.

THE COURT HOUSE SQUARE

by

William R. Bach

The Court House Square is a very old and interesting place. It is the center of the city and has been so for many years. The square is surrounded by the Court House and the City Hall. It is a very beautiful place and is the heart of the city.

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This article is intended to be a history of the Court House Square. It is a very old and interesting place. It is the center of the city and has been so for many years. The square is surrounded by the Court House and the City Hall. It is a very beautiful place and is the heart of the city.

THE COURT HOUSE SQUARE FROM 1900 TO 1950

By

WILLIAM R. BACH
Bloomington, Ill.

Fifty years ago the writer wrote the history of the City of Bloomington from the time of its organization to 1900. Now again he has been selected to write a sketch of the Court House Square for the past fifty years.

At the outset the writer wishes it to be known that it is written mostly from memory and may contain some errors. These, he trusts, may be overlooked.

For the past 48 years the writer has been continuously engaged in the practice of his profession on the Court House Square, in the same office suite that he now occupies in the Ike Livingston Building.

The Livingston Building was constructed immediately after the Big Fire. It was one of the first office buildings which was erected on the Square. On the main floor Mr. Livingston conducted a men's ready-to-wear clothing store. His son Harry was associated with him in this store and in the handling of the offices in the building. Uncle Ike, as he was called, was one of Bloomington's foremost citizens. His son-in-law, Herman Bachenhaimer, and his grandson, Herbert Bachenhaimer, and his sister are the present owners. Their friendship and trust over a continuous period of fifty years has been of great value to the writer, who is glad to express his appreciation in this article. Through their vision the Walgreen Drug Store became a tenant of many years' standing.

This article is intended to be a history of the Court House Square immediately after the North and East Sides and the

North three store buildings on the West Side of the Square had been totally destroyed by the disastrous fire of 1900.

In the list of owners and occupants of buildings on the Court House Square for the past 50 years there will be found the names of many of the City's business leaders, both past and present. The writer will endeavor to do justice to each and every one located on the Square for or during this past 50-year period. No favorites will be played. Naturally in such a large group some were outstanding and more prominent than others.

The Square has been a distinct credit to the City, both from the character of the buildings erected from time to time thereon and from the character and reputation of the bankers, merchants and professional men who did business around the Square during this 50-year period. The merchandise handled by the merchants on the Square has always been of the highest type and quality. For many years the merchants of Bloomington have enjoyed the reputation of handling as fine a line of merchandise as could be found in any City in the United States. The direct result of the handling of such high quality goods is that Bloomington trade has been drawn from patrons throughout the Corn Belt of Illinois. Bloomington has always been and is now a good place to trade.

From this eulogy of Bloomington merchants and their merchandise it may be inferred that the writer has received or will receive compensation for these flattering references. Such, however, is not the case. This article is entirely a work of love and affection for this City that was the birthplace of the writer and his place of residence and practice of his profession for more than three-quarters of a century. If the expression of praise herein made should happen to enhance the standing of Bloomington and its merchants, the writer will have such joy and pleasure therefrom that no monetary compensation could furnish.

We will commence this historical article about the Court House Square with an enumeration and list of its principal buildings.

The centerpiece of the Square is the beautiful Court House, built of Bedford Sandstone, with marble floors and walls, the interior furnishings and woodwork of which are of solid mahogany. It was built immediately after the great fire that destroyed its predecessor. With occasional crowding, it will accommodate all of the County's business. It evidences the stability of this - the foremost agricultural County of this State.

Around the Court House Square are many fine buildings. Many cities twice the size of Bloomington do not have such an imposing array of buildings as will be found around the Square. There are no unsightly telegraph poles or wires to detract from the beauty of the Square. These were removed shortly before the Big Fire. In their removal the writer of this article takes a

special pride. The determined efforts of the then Mayor and a special Committee of the City Council of the City of Bloomington, with the writer's legal assistance, brought about this fine result.

The public streets around the Square with the fine new pavements thereon are also a credit to the City and County. Within the writer's memory there have been no less than five pavements laid around the Square. The first pavement in the City was made of crushed Joliet Stone, and extended from the Alton Railroad Yards on West Chestnut Street Eastward on Chestnut to Center Street, thence South to the Court House Square. Over this pavement the stone for the Court House (that was destroyed by the Big Fire) was transported. Then there was the Nicholson Block pavement on the North and West Sides of the Square. When this wore out Messrs. Heafer and McGregor constructed a pavement of brick made in their brickyard at the Southeast Corner of the City. This was one of the first brick pavements in the United States, and was followed by asphalt, vitrified brick and the present Blacktop pavements. The Court House is quite an imposing structure, located on the crest of a hill from which the streets running North, South and West therefrom descend.

The writer witnessed the destruction of the former Court House and the major portion of the buildings surrounding it on the North, East and West Sides by the great fire of 1900. From its ashes and the rubble he saw it rise, Phoenix-like, to its present majestic beauty.

After the destruction of the first Griesheim Building by this fire, Mr. Wolf Griesheim immediately built the present Griesheim Building. This building is now owned and operated by his son, Julius Griesheim, a worthy successor.

It was a great privilege to have had the support and backing of the elder Griesheim, who was then an honored member of the Board of Supervisors of the County, while the writer was the States Attorney of the County. Both Ike Livingston and Wolf Griesheim left splendid monuments to their memories in these two fine office buildings. Both were splendid citizens and worthy representatives of their race.

No attempt will be made to describe the buildings around the Square in the order of their construction. Another building built after the fire was the Corn Belt Bank Building. It was and is now owned by the Corn Belt Bank, now presided over by Clair McElheny, one of the younger business men, whose popularity and banking ability is attested by the splendid condition of his Bank. Among its former officers and directors were a number of Bloomington's foremost citizens, viz:- Private Joe Fifer, Ex-Governor of Illinois, and his rival, General McNulta; also Vinton Howell, and John J. Pitts.

Space will not permit the mention of the tenants in this building or of any of the other office buildings on the Square.

Another imposing office building was built on the site of the old bank building on the Southwest corner of the Square by The Peoples Bank. This Bank is the oldest and the largest in point of assets and deposits, and stands foremost in stability. Its founders and officers included a fine group of Bloomington business men. Leading the list was Peter Whitmer, now deceased, whom it was the writer's privilege to have intimately known from early childhood until Mr. Whitmer's death, and also Matthew T. Scott, Lyman T. Ferre, James Fordice, George Dick, Oscar Wilson, Will Moore, LeRoy G. Whitmer, Frank Marquis, Fred Dick and others.

On the Southeast Corner of the Square is located the National Bank of Bloomington, formerly the First National Bank. This building of Red Standstone was another of the early office buildings built on the Court House Square. Connected with these two banks were Duncan Funk, George P. Davis and son David Davis III, E. Thorp, C. B. Perrigo, Dickey Templeton, Thomas C. and Lon Kerrick. Grover C. Helm is the present President of this Bank and associated with him is a group of Bloomington's foremost younger business men. Under their guidance and direction and the leadership of Grover Helm, The National Bank of Bloomington has made remarkable development and is now the second largest bank in Bloomington.

Another Bank and office building is located on the East Side of the Square. It is the American State Bank building. Foremost in connection with the organization of this Bank was Hon. James S. Neville, also Albert Wochner, Frank Oberkoetter, B. F. Hoopes, and P. H. MaGill. The present Board of Directors of this Bank includes several of Bloomington's leading attorneys and business men. Rarely in a city of the size of Bloomington will be found a group of better banks than the Bloomington banks. The combined assets of all the Bloomington banks is Seventy-five Million Dollars.

On the Northeast Corner of the Square is the Woolworth Store, formerly in the Sarah Swayne Building. Next to the Corn Belt Bank building on the North Side of the Square is the Evans Building. It has offices on the upper floors.

One of the largest Office buildings on the Square is the Unity Building on the East Side of the Square, including as a part thereof the building owned by the heirs of Aaron Livingston on the corner of Washington and Main Streets. Mr. Robert F. Empson is the owner of the Unity Building and gives his personal attention to the same. His tenants are quite enthusiastic about the service Bob gives them.

Now let us proceed to describe other buildings around the Square. One of the finest commercial buildings on the Square is the Cole Building on the East Side. It was built by John C.

Cole and E. W. Cole and was occupied by them with a Dry Goods Store. Cole Brothers handled the finest quality of Ladies' Dress Goods. The writer vividly recalls the theft of thousands of dollars of silk dress goods from this store. It was during the writer's term of office as States Attorney. The thieves were finally apprehended and brought to trial, but, due to the tampering with the principal witness for the People by Chicago gangsters and their local assistants, were not convicted.

Other contemporary Dry Goods merchants with Cole Brothers were Stephen Smith, F. J. FitzWilliam, Wilcox Brothers, C. W. Klemm and A. and R. Livingston. All of these men were men of the highest honor and integrity and were a distinct credit to Bloomington. Of this latter group, representatives of two of them are now carrying on the businesses of their respective ancestor, viz: the family of C. W. Klemm and the family of A. and R. Livingston. The Klemm Store now occupies the space formerly occupied by it and the FitzWilliam and Wilcox Stores. The Roland Store now occupies the building where Stephen Smith was located. This store is one of the finest Ladies' Ready-to-Wear stores in Central Illinois. It is now managed by Raymond Wakeley, assisted by Leslie Ernst.

On the Northwest Corner of the Square is the Illinois Hotel, --Bloomington's finest. It is quite highly rated by the traveling public. Before the fire the Windsor Hotel was located there. Business tenants on its ground floor are Jack Lewis, Jewelry; O.E. Moulder, Optometrist; Freese & Jefferson, Insurance; and the Hotel Barber Shop.

Other buildings on the South Side of the Square not heretofore referred to were the following:--Next to Ike Livingston's Clothing Store was the Frank Parritt Jewelry Store. Mr. Parritt was succeeded by Will Homuth. Mr. Parritt now resides in Los Angeles, California. In this building Chris Phillos subsequently conducted a Confectionery Store. The building is now occupied by Sigmund Sorg Inc. with a Jewelry Store.

Next West from this was the Holder & Milner Co. Hardware Store. Holder's son Sam now conducts a hardware store on North East Street in Bloomington. In the center of this block there was a drug store operated by Funk & Lacky. This was succeeded by Funk & Chewing. Subsequently the A. and R. Livingston Store took over this store. West of A. and R. Livingston's store was a Gent's Furnishings Store operated by Aaron and Abe Livingston. Charlie Hodge was their head clerk. These men were always the boosters of the writer in his various campaigns for public office. This building was subsequently taken over by the A. and R. Livingston Dry Goods Store. Next West was a Shoe Store that in later years was owned and operated by Bunnell Bros. The Store is now occupied by a Shoe Store. Next West was the Gentlemen's Furnishings Store originally operated by Dewenter & Kreitzer, but now by Dewenter & Company.

Commencing at the corner of Washington Street and Main Street, and proceeding North in order was the State National Bank Building with A. B. Hoblit as President. This Bank subsequently built a new bank building adjoining the First National Bank on the East, and afterwards was merged with the Third National Bank, and then with the First National Bank. All of them passed out in 1933 in The Bank Holiday.

The McLean County Bank succeeded to the location of the State National Bank. Mr. Lee Rust was its founder and President. This Bank moved from there to its present location on Main Street adjoining the National Bank of Bloomington. It was succeeded by a Ladies' Ready-to-Wear Store and the present McLellan Store. Rudy Lederer conducted a Barber Shop under the State National Bank for many years. Next North was a store for men operated by Elmer Wilson and Morris Knabel. Then came G. H. Read & Bros. Hardware Store which subsequently moved to West Front Street and still is operated by Will G. Read, a grandson. These three store buildings finally were and now are occupied by the McLellan Store. Next to Read's was the Drug Store of C. J. Coblentz, now occupied by the Jefferson Cafeteria. Del Hanger now operates a Shoe Store next to the Jefferson Cafeteria. The American State Bank is next North. Then comes Kresge's 5 & 10 Store; then Biasi's Drug Store; then Kresge's \$1.00 Store, under the management of Robert Randall.

Stores on the North Side of the Square not heretofore mentioned are the Carl's Shoe Store, formerly occupied by R. C. Rodgers Store and also by Jim Quinn's Drug Store. The other Stores in this Block have already been mentioned.

On the West Side of the Square from Jefferson Street South, the Penney Store occupies the corner and the first store South of the Corner. On the corner was located the Homer H. Green Drug Store. Following it the corner was occupied by Herrick & Eckart with a Gent's Ready-to-Wear Clothing Store. This was followed by Miller & Ulbrich Jewelry Store. W. F. Kleinau had a Confectionery Store in the North Half of this Block. Also E. K. Crothers, Watchmaker, had a store here. Goudy's Ladies' Ready-to-Wear Shop also occupied store space in the North Half of this Block.

By long odds the Ensenberger Store Building immediately adjoining the alley in this Block was the finest store building around the Square. It was built by Gus H. Ensenberger and is now owned and operated by sons of the builder. Across the alley South from the Ensenberger Building is the W. B. Read & Co. Store. This Store was originally operated by Read & White. Clarence White withdrew from it long ago and W. B. Read and his son Pete now own and operate it. In the South Half of this Block there were two saloons, Schausten's and Lewin's. The Schausten Saloon was conducted in strict accordance with the law. The Lewin Saloon was not so handled. A gambling room was operated on the upper floor. Lewin's son was Will Darnbrough, who became famous by reason of his having broken one of the banks at Monte Carlo. Darnbrough and Clark Griffith were contemporaries in baseball with the writer.

Pete Frisch now runs a tavern in the place formerly occupied by William Schausten. Thompson's Cafeteria is located the first door South of the W. B. Read Store. Pine's Ladies' Ready-to-Wear Shop is located immediately South of the Frisch Tavern. On the South Corner of this Block the John Hoppe Cigar Store is located. This is a successor to the United Cigar Store.

The history of the Court House Square would not be complete if we did not mention the Hack Stand, where stood the hacks for hire. Of all the hack drivers, Ab. Hawkins was perhaps the most renowned. He and a light-colored negro by the name of "Bill" represented the Colored People. Then there was Mike McHugh and his brother Jim. These men were as tough as they made them in those early days and bossed the hack stand for many years until the arrival of a man named "Crocker." The writer did not see the historic battle between the McHughes and Crocker, but he understands that Crocker whipped both of the tough McHughes.

Then there is another group that sit on the Court House Wall on the East Side of the Court House Yard. They vary in number according to the weather. It is too bad that a suitable recreation hall and rest room cannot be established to rid the Square of this nuisance. Lastly, must be mentioned the thousands of feathered visitors that come from all parts of the County nightly and fill all the cracks, crevices and nooks about the Court House and other City Buildings. Many remedies have been tried to rid the City of these pests, so far without much success.

The writer trusts that he will be pardoned if he steps out of his subject to mention the most prominent Office Building in the City, - The State Farm Insurance Building - which occupies the East Half of the Block on the East Side of the Court House Square. Towering 14 stories above the ground level and covering the entire East Half of the City Block, it seems a part of the historic Court House Square. This building can be seen for many miles in every direction. Its builder--George J. Mecherle. To him and his sons and to the grand group of fine business associates whom he has gathered together, the City of Bloomington is indebted. The writer salutes Mr. Mecherle as Bloomington's first citizen. More power to him. Would there were many more like him.

In closing the writer submits a few verses from Frank Parritt of Los Angeles, California, one of the merchants on the Court House Square fifty years ago and above referred to. It is entitled "The Old Town Clock."

THE OLD TOWN CLOCK

The old Town Clock
In the Court House tower
Was the pride of all
As it told the hour.

It guided the affairs
Of all who were found
To live within hearing
Of its mighty sound.

Its four large dials
That faced each way
Were easily seen
By night or day.

The clock kept time
Throughout the year
And never failed
To ring out clear.

Many years have passed
Since I've been there,
But in memory I see
The Court House Square.

And the old Court House
With its crowning tower,
And the old town clock
That tolled the hour.

With this I close. Naturally there comes to the writer the thought - "Who will be the historian that will write the history of the City for the next fifty and one hundred years?" and then the wish that someone of my descendants might be chosen to follow in the writer's footsteps.

Bloomington has always been most dear to the writer. Of all previous honors that have come to the writer, none have been more appreciated than the narratives of Bloomington's history it has been the writer's privilege to enjoy.

Respectfully,

WILLIAM R. BACH

THE COURTHOUSE CLOCK

Debate has raged about it pro and con;

People rush into print airing their views;
While indifferent, aloof, it carries on -

The courthouse clock, so often in the news;
Some are disturbed by its nocturnal stroke,

Transients mostly complain of broken rest;
To silence it a law they would invoke,

Which to the supervisors they suggest.

Hands off our clock, old residents demand,

Nor permit any tampering with its bell;
If wakened by its midnight tolling bland,

They just turn over, knowing all is well.

Flareup subsides, and from a high domed tow'r,
That sleepless guardian strikes each passing hour.

James Hart

THE INCEPTION AND GROWTH
OF BIASI'S DRUG STORES, INC.

by

Edward C. Biasi

THE INCEPTION AND GROWTH OF
BIASI'S DRUG STORES, INC.

by

EDWARD C. BIASI

I am of the firm opinion that whatever success any business venture may attain is due to several factors which could be enumerated as personnel, location of such business together with management thereof.

It has been the good fortune of Biasi's Drug Stores, Inc. to have had very generally a capable and select personnel, many of whom I shall mention later in this article. One of the prime factors in my selection of this business was the location of same, being located in what is probably the very best business location of Bloomington. As for management, although I have had to take the lead in this connection, I have had excellent cooperation from a great many of my help and then, of course, there is the background of my business experience which enabled me to assume the responsibility of supervision and management.

I believe I should consider all of my previous business experience in dating any factors that may have helped me to attain the necessary experience to assume management, supervision and original ownership of this business. In order to treat this subject fairly, I should go back as far as my first contact with the public in selling, which dates back to the time when I was about nine or ten years of age when I sold Chicago newspapers at Dubuque, Iowa. Much credit must be given to my mother who required that I make a complete accounting to her each day of my sale of newspapers. My next venture was when I attained the age of about 12 years, I made my first application and obtained my first position as an apprentice

in a drug store at Dubuque, Iowa, my employers being Berg & Ruegnitz; Mr. Berg being a rather elderly pharmacist and Mr. Ruegnitz a very young pharmacist, an excellent balance for this small business. Mr. Berg was rather stern and exacting and Mr. Ruegnitz had a rather exuberant personality and was a very ambitious man, he being at this time a very successful business man in Dubuque, Iowa. During the first summer of my employment with Berg & Ruegnitz I had another contact with the public which proved very beneficial to me. At that time I operated the concession on a passenger steamer on the Mississippi River which made short excursion trips on Sundays, the items sold being the ordinary popcorn, cracker jack, peanuts and soft drinks. This was a very profitable venture for me besides furnishing a great deal of pleasure. After I had entered Dubuque High School, I secured a position with another pharmacist, Mr. Robert McFarlane, who was a very meticulous and exacting pharmacist and was largely responsible for impressing on me the real importance of care in the filling of prescriptions. It was all of this early business training which had a bearing on my business conduct in later years.

On graduation from Dubuque High School in 1910 I entered Northwestern University, College of Pharmacy, graduating with the class of 1912, a two year course affording a degree of Ph. G. While in attendance at Northwestern University, I spent some spare time as a sales clerk for the Douglas Shoe Company, and in my senior year, with the Cutler Shoe Company, located on State Street in the Loop; it being the largest retail shoe store in Chicago at that time. Much valuable retail experience was obtained in my employment there. My first position on graduating from Northwestern University after being registered as a pharmacist in the State Of Illinois, was with Weiss and Thiedohr at Streator, Illinois, who operated a high class business and maintained a professional attitude towards the retail drug business. My experience there stood me well in hand in later years for this store impressed emphatically two very important business attributes, which were quality and service.

Before venturing into business for myself at Pontiac, Illinois in 1914, I was employed as manager of a small drug store in East Dubuque, Illinois for a short time. In all of these early and later business experiences, I learned, as well as the proper things to do in connection with a successful retail business, a number of things which should not be done.

When I ventured into business for myself at Pontiac, Illinois in 1914, I made my first business connection with a banker, Mr. James Lyon, who proved to be a very good friend, as well as a counsellor. It was his confidence in me which enabled me to borrow sufficient additional capital to purchase an old established business in Pontiac and later loan me additional funds to expand this business. The business in Pontiac grew considerably and proved to be quite profitable, but did not seem to be large enough to consume all my time which gave me the idea of expanding in business. During my early years in Pontiac I had made frequent trips to

Bloomington, Illinois and was always very favorably impressed with the location of Bonnett's Drug Store in the Griesheim Building, but at that time I had no idea that I might some day own this business. It was at the suggestion of Mr. Horace Benson, a realtor in Pontiac and a brother of Mr. Harry W. Benson, who was a realtor in Bloomington, that I made the purchase of the Bonnett Drug Store in Bloomington in 1922 from the heirs of Mr. Bonnett. I felt that this business was too large for me from a standpoint of a lack of capital, but my good friend, Mr. James Lyon, mentioned before in this article, gave the necessary encouragement along with some financial help. He introduced me to Mr. Adolph Wochner of the American State Bank of Bloomington. Mr. Wochner and his bank proved to be the same sort of friends to me as Mr. Lyon had been at Pontiac, loaning me sufficient funds to complete my requirements for the purchase of the Bonnett Drug Store on May 15, 1922.

At this time it might be well to make mention of some of the outstanding help employed by me during the early years of this business, to whom a considerable amount of credit is due for what success might have been attained. Particular mention should be given to Mr. J. Earl Stone, who was an employee of the Bonnett Drug Store at the time I purchased it in 1922. It was my good fortune that he consented to continue in my employment, and he so remained until 1935 when he was obliged to find other employment which did not require that he be on his feet for as much time as was required in this position. Mr. Stone exemplified the ultimate in courtesy and service, and I am certain I learned much from him. Since I was emphasizing the prescription department in this store, I added to our personnel in 1924, the services of another pharmacist, Mr. Harry E. Haines, who remained in continuous employment until 1945 when he passed away. Mr. Haines was one of the outstanding employees in this store. During this time we also had pharmacists who left to enter business for themselves, Mr. Lester Rushing, now operating a drug store in Sullivan, Illinois, and Mr. Louis Nierstheimer, now operating a drug store in Bloomington.

One of the early employees who is still in our employment, is Miss Tillie Mittlestaedt, who began her employment here in 1925 at which time she had charge of our candy department. In 1935, when I opened our east side store, Miss Mittlestaedt was given the position as manager of that location and is, at this time, still so employed. As our business continued to grow, we found it necessary to add to our employment an additional pharmacist in 1934, when Mrs. Josephine Janes was added to our staff. She proved to be a very capable pharmacist and remained in that capacity until 1941 when she retired from business life. Being confronted with the problem of securing the services of another pharmacist to replace Mrs. Janes and seeing the need of a lady pharmacist, I was rather fortunate in securing the services of Mrs. Dorothy Thomas in the year of 1941, who filled the void left by Mrs. Janes in a very satisfactory manner, and the time of this writing, is one of the principal stockholders of Biasi's Drug Stores, Inc. In the year of 1937, we required additional help and at that time employed Mr. Donald Nelson, who

remains with us today and is also one of the principal stockholders of the corporation. During the period of the growth of this store, there were other employees who served in capacities other than pharmacists, some of whom have gone into other fields after leaving here. One of these employees is Donald H. Grove, who did part time duty as early as 1929, trimming windows, and doing store display work. In 1933 he was given steady employment and later moved on to a position as salesman for National Cash Register Company. After he served in the army in the Second World War, he returned to Biasi's as a full time employee. He, too, is one of the principal stockholders in Biasi's Drug Stores, Inc. today. It would be difficult for me to elaborate on all of the outstanding personnel who were largely responsible for the success of this business, but mention should be made of the services of Mrs. Florence Friedewald, who served as bookkeeper for seventeen years; Miss Lela Lenhardt, who served as cosmetician for seventeen years; Mr. J. Russell Puett, who served as pharmacist for many years, until the time of his death; and Mr. Kenneth Pruitt, who has gone on to become territorial manager for Abbott Laboratories; Mr. E. J. Colton, who, after several years employment, left to enter Northwestern University to study medicine and is now a Captain in the U. S. Army Medical Corps. To all of these people, I owe much credit for any success we may have attained. Other employees with us for a shorter period of time also did excellent work.

At the time of the purchase of the Bonnett Drug Store in 1922, which was to become the Biasi's Drug Store and eventually Biasi's Drug Stores, Inc., the equipment consisted of rather old style, oak store fixtures with the customary wall cases having plate glass show cases in front of the wall cases on the north side of the store. Since this store supplied change for the motormen for the then operating street-car system, there was situated in the front of the store a cashier's cage for this purpose. On the south side of the store was located a rather large cigar counter and wall case; also a rather elaborate twelve-foot soda fountain and next to it a large ice-refrigerated case in which were kept cut flowers, which at that time were sold in the store. The prescription department was located at the rear of the store behind a partition which was about 65 feet from the front entrance. The balance of the back room formed by that partition was used as a store room as was the basement under the entire store.

Since I was of the opinion that the entire physical appearance of the store should be changed, I immediately placed an order for a complete change of fixtures which were installed later in the year of 1922. At this time the soda fountain was moved to the rear on the south wall of the store to allow for four booths accommodating four people each, to the east of the fountain with five tables and chairs accomodating four each in the center of the store room and in front of the booths. Extending from the fountain back bar to the west was located the new toilet articles department, which was to become an outstanding department in the store. On the north side of the store were located the cigar department, a rather extensive candy department and the patent medicines section with the wrapping counter. To the west of

which spot a partition extended across the store behind which was located the then prescription department. These fixtures were in birch mahogany colored and were rather outstanding. Before too many years after the installation just described, we found the arrangement and space quite inadequate. This was corrected by extending the store on the south side from the point where the booths originally were installed and to within about ten feet from the rear of the store, the tables and chairs being eliminated and booths being installed to this extent.

In the year of 1936 another physical change was made. A new modern front being installed, cigar and toilet article department locations being switched and a stairway cut near the front of the store leading to a basement salesroom. A new soda fountain and back bar was also installed to a length of 24 feet on the south side of the store. To accommodate the stock formerly kept in the basement where the new salesroom was to be located, a cat walk was installed on both the north and south walls of the store. There were also three additional booths added in the rear part of the store. At this time we had extended our service considerably and were serving luncheons as well as the customary fountain drinks at our soda and lunch department. We were also at this time emphasizing the sale of other sundry items as well as patent medicines and continued to do so for a long period of time; when it was determined that, since we were best equipped to promote more especially the prescription department and drug part of our business. We gradually discontinued promotion of these departments and finding the basement difficult to operate and not profitable, closed it. In 1946 our prescription and drug business had grown so extensively that we found it necessary to remodel and enlarge this department. In order to do so all of the booths were removed and one of the most modern and most efficiently equipped prescription departments, with a view open to the public, was installed. The wisdom of this change has been demonstrated very forcibly, for this business has grown continually since that time. At about the time this change was made new floor fixtures were installed in the front of our store continuing from the cosmetic department to the wrapping counter. A year or two later a new cosmetic section was installed; these last installations being in blond birch finish. The most recent change being a new tobacco and candy department with a large refrigerated candy unit, enabling us to better serve in this department.

On October 1, 1946 my duties having become very heavy and looking towards the possibility of relieving myself of some duties, the business was incorporated as Biasi's Drug Stores, Inc., the incorporators being Edward C. Biasi, Kenneth W. Crum, Dorothy C. Thomas, Donald W. Nelson, and Donald H. Grove. Some two years later Mr. Crum found it necessary to leave because of the condition of his health and at the present time the other four original incorporators are the stockholders of this corporation.

During the period of the growth of our store located at 217 N. Main Street (Griesheim Building), Bloomington, Illinois, the Pontiac store was

continued in operation until January 1, 1945 under the supervision of Mr. Lester Hyrup. Another drug store was located at Towanda, Illinois from 1926 until 1933, and still another at Market and Main Streets from 1928 until 1935. The outlet for merchandise provided by these additional stores was a distinct advantage during the period which we were promoting our business very extensively and proved to be a necessary adjunct to the success of this business.

Under the direct supervision of Mr. Donald W. Nelson, the physician and hospital supply department of this business has grown to become a very prominent part of the business. Since we have perfected the organization of this corporation, I have relinquished many of my duties and have delegated them to my associates; Mr. Nelson as noted above, Mrs. Thomas as manager of our prescription department as well as buyer of pharmaceuticals and related items, and Mr. Grove as our advertising and display manager together with personell duties. Mr. Grove also developed our Truss, Appliance and Hearing Aid department which is also under his supervision.

A BRIEF BUSINESS AUTOBIOGRAPHY

by

EDWARD C. BIASI

Life began for me August 15, 1892 at Dubuque, Iowa, the third son and last child of Celestin and Dorothy Biasi, my father being a native of Switzerland and my mother, whose parents were of Swiss origin, was born in Dubuque, Iowa. My early years were spent in the usual activities of a young boy in a family of rather meager income, my father being a cabinet maker, a trade which he had learned in Switzerland. My early church affiliation was with the Immanuel Congregational Church of Dubuque.

About the age of nine years, I started carrying newspapers, and at the age of twelve I applied for and secured my first position in a drug store at Dubuque, Iowa. My duties in my first position as an apprentice in a drug store, since this employment was during the school period, were to arrive at 7:30 A. M., attend to the sweeping out and washing windows; also to run early morning errands. I was permitted to leave 15 minutes before the 9:00 A. M. school hour. During my noon hour, it was necessary to report to the store for a period of about 30 minutes, and I was expected on duty again at 4:15 in the afternoon where I remained at work until 6:00 P. M. On Saturdays my entire day was consumed in doing the many odd jobs about the store. For this I received \$1.00 per week. After about a year my wages were increased to \$1.50. By that time I had become more useful and was filling quinine capsules and packaging other drugs and waiting on a few customers about the store.

The store of my first employment differs considerably with the drug store of today in that we sold very little that was not directly related to the drug business.

On the entire north side of the store we had on open display our Salt-Mouth and Tincture bottles containing the various drugs, both powder and liquid, in daily use. Across the back, out of sight, was the prescription department. On the south side of the store we had such sundry items as rubber goods and stationery with a small soda fountain, which was in operation only about four months of the summer. The patent medicines were displayed in the wall case on the south side of the store.

When a junior in high school, I secured a position in another drug store where my duties were considerably more extensive and the pay more remunerative; at the time my pay being \$5.00 a week.

During my last semester in high school, I was employed practically full time with duties at the drug store, having secured permission to be at high school for recitation periods only; my pay having risen to \$7.00 a week. After I graduated from Dubuque High School in 1910, I entered Northwestern University, College of Pharmacy, in the fall of that year and graduated with the class of 1912, educational requirements being less stringent for registration as a pharmacist. At that time only two years were required for the degree of Ph. G. During my education at Northwestern University, I devoted a great deal of my spare time as a clerk in shoe stores where I gained a considerable amount of business experience, proving most valuable to me when I ventured into business for myself at a later date. After graduation I held two positions as a registered pharmacist, one at East Dubuque, Illinois--the other at Streator, Illinois, before venturing into business for myself in 1914 at Pontiac, Illinois. In 1922 I purchased the Bonnett Drug Store in Bloomington, Illinois from the heirs of Mr. Bonnett.

In 1917, while in business in Pontiac, I married Miss Charlotte Julien of Streator, Illinois, our church affiliation being the Presbyterian Church of Pontiac, which we transferred to Normal and eventually to the Second Presbyterian Church in Bloomington. Before moving to Normal, Illinois in December of 1922, we were blessed with two daughters, and after our residence in Normal, there were two additional daughters born. In 1929 Mrs. Biasi passed away after a short illness. I again married in 1931 to Miss Edna Sims of Bloomington. My residence since 1922 has been in the same location in Normal.

G. A. ENSENERGER & SONS

By

Gus Ensenberger

G. A. ENSENBERGER & SONS

By

Gus Ensenberger

1879, G A Ensenberger established business in the "Bee Hive" corner, at Front and Center st. (Presently occupied by Marbens Clothing Store).

At that time Front street was the main business street of Bloomington, with the Gridley Bank at the corner of Main and Front street.

The Court House Square was surrounded with a wooden fence and there was plenty of parking space for horse drawn wagons and buggies.

Main water supply was the Stand Pipe on the West Side and numerous cisterns scattered about the City for Fire Protection.

Stores kept open every night and Sunday mornings, and, barber shops issued numbered tickets for turns to get shaves or haircuts. Most clients of barber shops had their individual

shaving mugs, brush and cake of soap, which were kept in specially built pigeon hole wall racks in the barber shops.

When G A Ensenberger's Furniture & Upholstery Store was opened in 1879 very little Factory made Furniture was available and, it was necessary to have a Cabinet Shop, Finishing Shop and Upholstery Shop to operate the business.

There was considerable "Bartering" especially with farmers, trading articles of Furniture for a load of hay, corn, oats and straw.

Thrifty farmers wives' would purchase articles of furniture and pay for it from their "Butter and Egg" money. Also a supply of winter lard was sometimes traded. One horse wagon was used for local delivery. Out of town customers came in with their wagons to haul their purchases home.

Very little use was made of display show windows and many articles were shown in front of the stores on the sidewalks, to attract attention when weather was favorable.

Store was lighted with suspended oil lamps with large metal shades. Later gas piping was put in with crude cross arm gas pipe and split clay burner tips. It was many years before the Welsbach Mantle type gas burner was introduced and it was one of the lighting marvels of that time.

Stores were open for business at seven o'clock every morning. Each morning the old wood floors were sprinkled with water, after which saw dust was applied, then thoroughly swept with good old fashioned hand made brooms.

In 1886 G.A. Ensenberger purchased the Harwood building on

the west side of the Square, which consisted of a three story brick building facing Center Street and a two story building adjoining on the west extending to Madison Street. The front building facing the Court House was 25 feet wide and the rear building was 33 feet wide.

There were two "Sky Lights" one over the office and one where the two buildings joined. The elevator was a hand power spool and cable type and there was also a spool and cable type equipped with large iron hook for hoisting bales of hair, Moss Cotton, excelsior, webbing, burlap and coil springs for the Upholstering Department and various types of woods for the Cabinet Shop.

Finally an arc light was installed near the front of the store. The carbon sticks had to be renewed every day, which was done by a brother of the late James Gray of the Gray-Trimble Electric Company.

In 1909 G.A. Ensenberger erected a Warehouse Building on the corner of Washington and Roosevelt Ave. (Roosevelt Ave. was at that time called West Street).

After the Warehouse Building was completed in 1910, the rear two story building on Madison Street was torn down to make way for a new six story Steel and Masonry building, which was completed and opened for business in May, 1911.

This building was equipped with the first push button type passenger elevator in Bloomington, also with a large modern freight elevator, steel ceilings and the latest type of Welsbach Gas Lighting fixtures. Floor Covering Department and Drapery Department were added with new type Electric lighting.

In 1915 the firm was incorporated as G.A. Ensenberger & Sons and composed of G.A. Ensenberger, Elizabeth Ensenberger, Frank G. Ensenberger and Gustav L. Ensenberger. H. Joseph Ensenberger became a member of the corporation in 1917. G. A. Ensenberger the founder died on April 18, 1917 and the same year the adjoining Stipp building was purchased.

The walls between the buildings were opened and occupied by G.A. Ensenberger & Sons until 1925, when the two front buildings were torn down, to make room for the beautiful modern steel construction seven story and basement building which was erected to better serve Bloomington and the surrounding community by this same firm established in 1879.

From a very humble beginning 71 years ago, this good old dependable firm has participated in every worth while civic effort since its founding and has always had faith in the City of Bloomington and the surrounding community and neighboring cities and towns.

Seventy-one years ago only the most staple merchandise was offered, then gradually more lines were added until at this time the firm of G.A. Ensenberger & Sons offer one of the finest collections of home furnishings to be found under one roof anywhere.

Most of the best known manufacturers of dependable furniture and many nationally advertised lines are represented admirably by G.A. Ensenberger & Sons.

In 1937 a housewares department was added to the basement, with outstanding displays of China and Glassware as well as a most complete line of Copper, Aluminum, Chrome,

and staple utensils.

In 1944 a Ladies Ready to Wear Department was added and occupies the entire third floor of the New Building with full line of Ready to Wear, Furs, and accessories.

G.A. Ensenberger & Sons have demonstrated that they believe in Bloomington and its trading area and look forward with confidence for the future of the finest City in the finest County of the best Country in the World.

ADAM GUTHRIE'S ARK

No one can say who christened it "The Ark,"

Tiny frame structure on corner of Square;

With no distinctive Biblical trade-mark

Save Adam Guthrie's patriarchal air.

Bespectacled, with thin wispy white beard,

Behind glass showcase tobaccos he sold;

At rear, amid smoke pall that seldom cleared,

The habitues gravely town gossip told.

Brands of cigars and pipes his stock displayed,

Customers' wants he courteously supplied;

When boys for empty boxes requests made,

They got them, oft as his patience was tried.

While he dispensed his goods for cash or trust,

Around the stove big questions were discussed.

James Hart

HAYES DRUG STORE

by

Mark B. Hayes

Hayes Drug Store

Hayes Drug Store at 629 North Main Street, bears the oldest pharmacy name in Bloomington. It was founded in 1896 by David Hayes, veteran Bloomington businessman who, at the time of his death, was the oldest active druggist in the city.

Mr. Hayes was born in County Waterford, Ireland, June 24, 1856. At the age of six he came to this country with his parents, John and Bridget Hayes. The family moved directly to Bloomington, where Mr. Hayes remained the rest of his life.

During the most active portion of the development of the city he took his part in community, church and business affairs. For 10 years he was foreman of the Augustine Nursery and because of his grasp upon details, names and customs incident to the business, he was looked upon as an authority on nursery stock.

In fact, when he decided to go in business for himself it was his love for trees, plants and herbs that turned him toward the drug business, since these products of nature are so closely allied with pharmacy.

In 1896 Mr. Hayes bought Dyson's Pharmacy, located at 627 North Main Street and then owned by W. A. Fishbeck. This was at the age of 40 when most men believe they have settled in the groove in which they must remain for the rest of their lives.

Knowing nothing of the business which he was entering, he studied industriously for the next four years and in 1900, the morning of the great fire which destroyed much of Bloomington's business district, he went to Springfield and successfully passed

the examination for full registered pharmacist the first time the tests were placed before him.

This turn in his life was remarkable, both because of the lateness in life when he began a business career and because of the success he attained in it. Shortly after obtaining his pharmacist's license, Mr. Hayes moved next door to the store's present location. Among his early employes were Max Moratz and George Wills, both of whom are still living in Bloomington.

He was married February 15, 1882 to Catherine McCabe, of Wilmington, Illinois. Four children were born to them, three sons and a daughter. As the boys grew to manhood he taught them the ~~druggist~~ business.

Mr. Hayes died June 9, 1923 after a four-year siege of poor health. At his funeral rites in Holy Trinity Church, he was eulogized as a man who was all that is honorable in morals, integrity, and in charity, and as an exemplary member of his church and community.

Upon his death, the drug store was taken over by a son, Melvin Hayes, who operated it until his death. The store is now under the management of Melvin's wife and their son, Melvin J. Hayes.

Two other sons of the store's founder also operate drug stores—Mark B. Hayes, owner of the M. B. Hayes Drug Store at 1102 South Main Street, and Walter D. Hayes, who operates a pharmacy in Minonk, Illinois.

HOLDER HARDWARE STORE

by

Julia M. Holder

HOLDER HARDWARE STORE

by

Julia M. Holder

One of my very early memories is of a tall man's putting his hand on my head and saying, "Little girl, I want you always to remember that I was the boy who found your great-grandfather's body after he had been drowned." The man was Mr. John Boyle who lived at Boyle's Grove a few miles this side of Tremont and a favorite picnic-ground in the early days; and my great-grandfather was Daniel Holder, the first of the Holder family to come to this locality. Of him I find this in the Holder Genealogy--"Among the Holders of Lynn (Mass.) born at the old homestead overlooking the bay was Daniel, oldest son of Richard. He was a man of fine presence, courtly, refined and cultivated. In early life he moved to Baltimore, then to New York, where he accumulated, as a merchant, a large fortune which was unfortunately, lost in one of the memorable panics of the period. He married Sarah Fairbanks Houghton, of Lynn, a woman of culture and attainments, social and otherwise. They were, as were all

of their family, members of the Society of Friends, and their sons, Charles and Richard, were educated at Friends' School in Providence. In 1837 the family moved to Tremont, Illinois."

Here the family lived on the southeast border of the village and Eliza Farnham in her book LIFE IN PRAIRIE LAND published in 1846 tells of the happy home they established there, working on their farm about two miles from the village on the prairie and enjoying the rich natural opportunities of the new land. She says of great grandfather Daniel, "He had ever been a devoted lover of some branches of natural science, among which ornithology claimed preference. Much delight therefore was in store for him in the new varieties of birds to which western life would introduce him. And great was his pleasure when a leisure day came to sally forth, gun in hand, and return after a few hours' amble, with some of the feathered tenants of the new country for preservation. Many beautiful specimens of his preparation are still found among eastern collections and in the homes of his friends."

It was on one of these expeditions in 1840 that the tragedy referred to above occurred. And Miss Farnham gives a vivid account of the anxiety of the family when my great grandfather did not return on this winter evening--their hope that he had stayed overnight with a neighbor, their final realization that a serious accident of some sort had occurred--had he been attacked by wolves?--had he been accidentally shot and was he lying somewhere unable to help himself? There was no clue to the mystery until the body was found when the stream into which he had fallen melted in the spring.

Soon after 1850 the sons, Charles Warren and Richard Houghton moved to Bloomington where they entered into business on the east side of the Court House Square under the name of C. W. Holder and Company.

Both sons were, like their father, of literary and scientific tastes. Richard especially, followed his father's love for ornithology. He was a trustee of the State Normal College, planned the Natural History Rooms and donated 500 specimen of birds mounted for study. He also gave similar collections to the Wesleyan University. After a few years he withdrew from the business in which he and his brother were associated and before long moved, with his family, to Freeport, Illinois.

Charles Warren Holder, my grandfather, continued in the business. They sold at the very first nursery stock, seed and agricultural implements and among the kinds of seed they advertised is osage orange seed brought from Texas and used for hedges--those same hedges farmers of today are busily pulling out and replacing with fences.

In 1855 this ad appeared in the Weekly Pantagraph--"Having added a heavy stock of Hardware, Cutlery, and Glass, etc. to our Agricultural Implements we are ready to supply our old friends and new with every variety of articles in our line." It is interesting to notice among the articles named are several, for example, Fairbanks Scales and Diston Saws, which the store has continued to sell for nearly a century.

By 1859 the store had moved to #6 Front Street and soon after this the management was taken over by the oldest son of C. W. Holder, Dan Holder. About this time the advertizements put especial emphasis on "every variety of stove," and told of the

opening of a tin shop where "all kinds of job work" was done "on short notice". Most of the tin articles sold in the store were made in this shop--a popular one of that day that sounds strange to us was candle molds. We may picture many of these tin articles as hanging from the ceiling and taken down for sale with a long hooked pole.

The store did not remain long on Front Street, but moved to the south side of the Square, 108 W. Washington Street where it occupied also the upper floors of the two buildings to the west, now part of the Livingston store, and which had been the old Phoenix Hall. Their upper floors were used for the stock of carriages and buggies and the tin shop. In the back part of the main store was a fireplace before which were comfortable wooden arm-chairs where often customers sat and talked of politics and the Civil War.

In 1900, after the fire, the business was moved to 305-7 N. Main where it remained until 1916. That was the Durley Building the corner of which was occupied by Wilcox Brothers Dry Goods Store. Here the upper floors of the entire building were used by the hardware store for carriages, buggies, mantles and tile and the tin shop--with the exception of a row of offices on the second floor.

From 1916 to 1929 the Holder store, occupied the entire building at 115 N. Main and the upper floors of 113, and since that date, it occupies the building at 105-7 North East Street and the adjoining building at 204 East Front Street.

Dan Holder conducted the business until his death in 1909. In 1898 the business had been incorporated and the stock is owned by the children and grandchildren of Dan Holder.

Sam Holder has been president since 1909, and Dan Holder, great-grandson of the founder is now the manager of the company. It is engaged in the retail hardware business and similar lines, as well as in contract building hardware and the installation of tile and marble throughout the state.

Since 1934 the company has been associated with a large group of midwest hardware stores known as the Ace Hardware Corporation. The stores operate under the name "Ace Hardware Corporation", or "Ace Stores", however they are under individual ownership and management.

FOODS
by
CAMPBELL HOLTON

F O O D S.

Following the Gay Nineties, Bloomington the capital of one of the great agricultural counties of Illinois, situated in the center of the Corn Belt and in the middle of the midwest, the Bread Basket of the United States, enters into the exciting events of the new century.

Her citizenry little thought that in fourteen years the world would enter World War #1 and that in 1917 the United States would join the Allies and actively engage in the conflict, and that before the half century rolled along we became actively engaged in World War #2-- both of these entangling and terrible wars had a marked effect on the value and the quantity and assortment of Foods in Bloomington.

Scarcity in some items were marked and necessary, the demands of our boys came, and should have come first. Prices, the under semi-governmental control, were higher but reasonable.

Transportation, at home and abroad, became badly disrupted and rates high. No one could expect a different situation.

It is recognized by all that these two World Wars, leaving the country heavily in debt and distribution dislocated, together with prices in too high a bracker, brings a real Food problem before every nation, not only those which were 'at war', but their neighbors who were neutral.

Here is an example for every one who uses Pepper - before the war, this simple spice brought around 20¢ New York--the Indonesian War, between Holland and the Indonesia, which followed the end of World War #2--result-- Pepper plants were damaged and crops were reduced to about 25% of the usual amount, due to lack of care of the Pepper plants--result--Pepper is bringing \$1.90 per pound.

Should the world have had peace in these fifty years, we would see a different world, as far as Food, and many other lines are concerned.

The improvement and development of three great forces have revolutionized Bloomington's food suppliers and habits--

Communication
Transportation
Refrigeration

Mayor Cone could telephone the Emperor of China for twenty-five Birds-nests for the Soup course and his order would be filled the same day by Air Mail Express.

We are shipping coal by air to Berlin and the world is using Air, Railroads, Trucks, Steamers and Animal Carts. These transportation facilities go to the far corners of the earth--this is a great civilization force and gets the people of the earth to know and believe in each other.

Food distribution in Bloomington has been handled through this half century by the wholesale and retail firms, sometimes producers bring in their fruits, vegetables or fowl and sell customers direct. These activities have improved during these fifty years--greatly improved. Retail stores are now meticulously clean, well arranged, complete assortments, store well painted, trained help, well posted on goods old and new, courteous treatment, etc.etc. We all like to see this fine improvement.

Bloomingtonians are not heavy Tea drinkers, but two wars, especially #2, almost eliminated Japan and China Teas, but a full supply of India Teas have been available. Now Japan and China Teas are coming in, including fine Formosa Oolongs.

The old time Meat Market is gone--your Food Stores have fine refrigerators and display cases--trained meat cutters, fresh meats are now an integral part of your Food Stores.

In some sections we have three types of Food Stores--

- The Independent Home Owned Grocery
- The Chain Store
- The Department Store
- The Super Market

all these are competing for the customer's food dollar in Illinois.

The discovery of Deep Freezing of Foods marked a great step ahead. The Deep Freeze machinery fits in small homes, large display cases in stores and warehouses in wholesale houses, fruits, vegetables, poultry, fish, meats, etc.

Bloomington has a number of Deep Freeze Locker plants where the customer can lease and pay an annual rent. The manager of these Lockers will cut up both pork, beef, etc. weigh each piece, wrap it and it is ready for the consumer, who takes home the piece he wants.

Frozen fish, fruits and vegetables are packed up in family size packages for the consumer demand.

In 1850 -	90%	of our Bread was baked at home
In 1900 -	about 1/2 "	" " " " " "
In 1950 -	Maybe 4%	" " is " " "

this is true, to a somewhat smaller percentage, of Cakes,

Cookies, Rolls, Etc. Great Bakery Companies, and many small ones, cater to and furnish us with bakery goods. Gone are the good days of the Baker's delivery wagon, when the boys and girls, in the early days, got Cookies.

Bread is wrapped, often sliced, and sold to you by your Grocer.

The eating habits also, of the rank and file, have greatly changed--few meals are eaten at noon at home by the workers and many dinners in the evening are eaten downtown. As a result, the art of serving and cooking has declined in the home and has gone to the Hotels, Restaurants, Etc. to a large extent.

Bloomington has a large number of fine eating places, also, quick lunch places where you can, at a very reasonable price, get a good, satisfying lunch.

One of the great miracles of this half century is the entry into the race for the Consumer Food Budget.

FRUIT & VEGETABLE JUICES.

Florida, Texas and California step into the race and the consumer acceptance has been phenomenal. Probably this is the #1 surprise in food distribution in Bloomington. These citrus Juices are very good and are also reasonable in price. Growers are anticipating a big increase in the demand.

Bloomington has, in the last fifty years, used more Canned fruits, vegetables and fish, each season. Canned foods are packed in nearly every State in the union; each year the amount increases and new items appear on the scene. Each season Canned Food assortments increase and economies in growing and canning will be developed that will bring canned fruits, vegetables and fish into still more general distribution.

The phenomenal increase in Coffee was easily a high spot in 1949 activities. A short crop and an increased demand in this country and Europe, brought the market to the present prices. A pound of Coffee will produce forty or fifty cups of good Coffee and we will likely see prices remain, at least near, the present basis, for several years ahead.

Publicity given to Foods, from a standpoint of calling attention to new and interesting items--display or local ads were not found in the local press until 1920, only thirty years ago and this surely tells us how times have changed in Bloomington. Other lines led the race in advertising.

THE FUTURE-

Will we have a return to the old time Home Bakery and the serving of Homemade dishes, soups, dried fruits, etc., at home or will Bellamy's looking backward ideas prevail and the Government Agencies furnish all meals?

We think very few would like this, but would have facilities to do this and furnish meals promptly and at prices lower than any of us can remember.

CAMPBELL HOLTON.

CAMPBELL HOLTON

Biography

CAMPBELL HOLTON was born August 11, 1866 at Vincennes, Indiana. His parents - Thos. Tregelman Holton
and
Ellen Margaret Campbell
were married in Bethany, West Virginia on November 17, 1862, by Alexander Campbell, President of Bethany College. They lived in Falmouth, Kentucky then Vincennes, Indiana; they moved to Springfield, Illinois in 1869, then moved to Berlin, Illinois in 1871 and settled down in this interesting inland town, but were called away in 1873 to Lincoln, Illinois.

Campbell Holton entered the public school in the 5th Grade and finished in June 1881. He immediately entered the food distributing field in the Food Store of C. E. Ross and after a number of years, with a partner, T. A. Reynolds, they bought the store and embarked in business.

In 1890 he married, in Clinton, Illinois, Adelaid May Blake and later sold his interest in the Lincoln store to T. A.

Reynolds and moved to Bloomington and associated himself with the J. F. Humphreys Co. as General Manager.

In 1907 he resigned from J. F. Humphreys Company and organized the Campbell Holton Company (Wholesale Grocers), originators and distributors of the extensive line of fine foods under the HAPPY HOUR Brand and sponsors of the Happy Hour Home Owned Retail Food Stores.

Mr. and Mrs. Campbell Holton have two children, Ellen Margaret, now Mrs. V. C. Larsen of East San Gabriel, California, and C. Blake Holton, Manager of Campbell Holton & Company, whose wife is Grace McCormick.

Mr. Holton is a Charter Member of the Second Christian Church and a member of the Official Board, a Director at Brokaw Hospital, the Bloomington Savings & Loan Ass'n., Salvation Army Board, the T. B. Association, #43 Masonic Lodge, The Consistory, the Y.M.V.A., Director of the Red Cross and the Rotary Club.

Mr. and Mrs. Holton have lived at 1007 N. McLean Street for over 50 years and will celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on September 23, 1950. Mr. and Mrs. Holton are members of the Longfellow Social Club.

SIXTY-FIVE YEARS IN A DRUG STORE

By

CLARA LOUISE KESSLER

SIXTY-FIVE YEARS IN A DRUG STORE

By

Clara Louise Kessler
(January, 1950)

My father, Samuel Franklin Kessler, who is now ninety-three years of age was born in New Berlin, Pennsylvania, on October 16, 1856. New Berlin is a story-book town nestled in a shallow valley surrounded by low foothills. It is a typical New England village with stone or brick houses built close to the sidewalks, small picturesque churches and a ghostly abandoned "Ladies' Seminary" where once upon a time my great-aunt used to teach.

My father's father, Lewis Edwin Kessler, was born in New Berlin on December 18, 1832. He was the principal of the public schools of New Berlin for many years and officiated as Justice of the Peace. In younger days he had been apprenticed to a structural blacksmith and carriage-maker but had abandoned that trade and worked for a few years as a land surveyor.

My grandfather's father, William Kessler, was a tannery owner of New Berlin, and the widower of Mary Swartz Miller, who as Mary E. Swartz was a direct descendent of Colonel William Ball, who came to Virginia in 1657, and who was the grandfather of Mary E. Ball, the mother of Gen. George Washington.

My grandfather, Lewis Edwin Kessler, married Catherine Roshong on January 1, 1856. The bride was born at New Berlin on February 10, 1836. When she was nine years of age she completed her sampler which was made with the famous strawberry design around the edge. As a child, I remember my mother occasionally lifting out of a trunk a limp package wrapped in blue tissue paper. This was the treasured sampler. How I marveled at the intricate stitches so evenly placed, at the pretty little embroidered church, and the name and date sewed in beautiful script - Catherine Roshong, 1845. And to think she was only nine year old when she made her sampler! Not so many years ago when my father was in his eighties, we traveled to this little Pennsylvania town of

New Berlin and took a picture of the church. On comparing the photograph with the sampler, we found it was the very same church pictured in both. This little girl who made the sampler came from a musical family for my father remembers that the attic in his home had a number of musical instruments stored there while his mother's brothers fought in the Civil War.

One morning when my father was nine years of age, he was given a large bell and told to walk about the streets of New Berlin, to ring the bell and call out, "Auction, auction at Kessler's today! Auction! Auction!" He vividly remembers that day of bell ringing since he failed miserably in carrying out his instructions. He rang the bell but was too shy to call out a single word. However everyone knew what the bell signified and the auction was undoubtedly successful.

After a year in Tipton, Iowa, and another year in Buchanan, Michigan, the family settled in Warren, Illinois in Jo Davies County. My grandfather established a drug store in this year of 1867 and when my father was fifteen years of age he started to help in the store. In 1881 he purchased the store from his father.

At first there was no soda fountain in the store. Customers were served lemonade. A large jar was filled with lemonade and ice and dipped up with a dipper into glasses at 5¢ a glass. Occasionally lemon juice and sugar were added to keep the lemonade up to par. In the center of the room was a long table filled with glassware and lamps. On one side of the room shelves were filled with patent medicines, and on the other side beautiful bottles in different shapes and sizes held the tinctures or extracts in liquid form of all kinds of plants. My father in those early days made his own vanilla, placing vanilla beans in a mixture of alcohol and water and leaving them to soak for several weeks. Then the liquid was filtered and bottled. The open mouthed bottles at one end of the drug store were filled with plants and herbs, such as camphor and sassafras and other drugs in crude form. Underneath the shelves were drawers filled with herbs such as thoroughwort and a variety of barks from one of which quinine was made, besides other drugs.

The mahogany prescription counter was placed toward the back of the room. It was a counter about two yards wide set on a framework of iron. Beautiful brass scales balancing on an upright pedestal were placed here with an accompanying nest of shining square brass weights varying from half a grain up to ten grains. Round ounce weights were also made of brass. Three sets of mortars and pestles were used in those early days. Small glass mortars were needed at the prescription counter for mixing drugs in prescriptions. Wedgewood mortars somewhat larger were used in the wide veterinary trade of the store. Mixtures of drugs were made into condition powders for sick horses. Iron mortars were used to pound up crude drugs into tinctures.

The prescription counter shielded the back section of the store which was filled with paints, turpentine, kerosene and machine oils. A large tank in the center of the back room held kerosene oil. Five barrels would be rolled into the room and emptied into the tank. People brought their kerosene cans here regularly to be filled, for this was the age of lamps.

In the two windows at the front stood the conventional symbol of the drug store - two great urns filled with tinted water. The largest bottle on the tall wooden pedestal held one glowing color, the somewhat smaller bottle resting on top of the first bottle held a different color, while the third round urn at the top held still another color of liquid.

When my father became proprietor of the store an elaborate marble soda fountain was added, and soda dispensed at 5¢ a glass. Ice cream was kept in a metal container and set in a tub of ice under the counter. While still quite young, probably twenty or twenty-one years of age, he was sent by his father to the town of Bloomington where a meeting was being held to discuss the formation of a State Board of Pharmacy. While in Bloomington he stayed at the Windsor Hotel, the site of the present day Hotel Illinois, and he remembers taking a sight-seeing trip to Normal in a mule-drawn street-car. Some time after that my father sent to Springfield for the first pharmacist's license issued by the state of Illinois. He placed it in a beautiful walnut shadow-box frame, and each year exchanged it for a new license until he was over eighty years of age when he retired. Today the walnut frame hanging on our living room wall holds my father's portrait and the lining beneath the picture is his last pharmacist's license.

I often think of those musical instruments stored in the attic of a Pennsylvania home while their owners, my father's uncles left for the Civil War, one uncle never to return from the Andersonville prison. They formed a bridge from unknown musical ancestors down to the present time. My grandfather played the flute and used to lead the singing in the New Berlin church without musical accompaniment. My father in turn led the Warren church choir and played the horn in the village band.

As my father continued his business in the drug store, the old-fashioned glass bottles were abolished and the walls were lined with regular prepared medicines as in modern times. He was thirty years of age when on May 6, 1886 he married my mother, Martha Cyrene Flower, daughter of Elbridge Watson and Roxy Ann (Childs) Flower of Warren. When they were married and had a pleasant apartment above the store, my mother said she would like to help in the store. My father said she could and the first thing he did was to give her a Latin Book to study to learn the names of the medicines used in making up prescriptions. My mother who was just twenty years of age said she had had enough schooling and thus her help was short lived.

My older sister, Frances, remembers the Warren store in many ways. She remembers using a mortar and pestle as a pastime to

make a pretty yellow powder called sulphur. As a tiny child she saw her first mechanical toy in the store. Straight along the floor toward her came a little man not more than eight or nine inches tall. It was a Ben Butler doll walking toward her in a most life-like manner and she screamed in terror. When she was a little older my father taught her to waltz, practicing back of the store counters.

In 1897 my parents hoping to obtain better educational facilities for their three children, decided to move to Normal, Illinois, where the celebrated Normal University was situated. My father sold his drug store and on May 23, 1898, he arrived in Normal to take a position with Mr. Robert Enlow, and to find a home for his family. The following excerpts from a package of old letters describes his impressions of Bloomington and Normal of that day.

Normal, Illinois
May 24, 1898

...As I wrote you I reached Bloomington yesterday at two o'clock. I found Mr. Enlow there in Loer's drug store, where I think he has an interest. He is a very pleasant young man about thirty years old. He and two other young men own the store at Normal. Their names are William McKnight and John McKinnie, both very pleasant young fellows. The drug store I am to work in is the same room with what is known as McKnight's Book Store. The drug part is owned by the three young men I mentioned, and the book part is owned by Mr. McKnight and his sister, a lady who reminds me very much of Mrs. Gann. My duties of course are first on the drug side, but I will help on both sides as occasion requires. The only fountain in town is in the store. This is in charge of Mr. McKinnie and he was kept busy yesterday afternoon and evening. The store is on a corner right opposite another drug and book store. There are three drug stores in the town. The store I am in has a very good trade, mainly town and student trade. There are over 600 students at the Normal. Mr. Fritter is superintendent of the high school. The store is kept open Sunday until noon. At Bloomington they are open all day on Sundays.

Normal and Bloomington both have a great many shade trees which makes it pleasant. The first fault which I have to find with Normal is its streets or roads. They have had rainy weather nearly all spring, and the streets have been muddy nearly all of the time. The bicycle riders are obliged to use the sidewalks. The town is lighted with electric lights, and it has a waterworks system nearly completed. They have telephone connection with Bloomington and an Electric street railway connects the two places. In fact, you cannot tell where the dividing line is between the two places.

The board here is rather high, ranging from \$2.25 to \$3.00 per week. I can get a comfortable room for \$3.50 per month. Many students get rooms at one house and their meals at another. I am going to take my meals with the Durham Club. This club takes its name from Mrs. Durham, the landlady. She furnishes meals for a very large club of students, and anyone

may join it who wishes. She has a large house and I think it probable I will engage a room with her. My board and room will cost me \$12.50 or \$13.00 per month. I have not yet found out about rents. Mr. Cook invited me to his boarding place for supper last night. He was the only man among ten lady boarders...

May 29, 1898

... It is Sunday, just before dinner time, so I will begin my Sunday letter. I went to the M. E. Church this morning and met Prof. Fritter. He was very pleasant and I was glad to meet him. He remains here another year. He will preach the High School Baccalaureate Sermon this afternoon at M. E. Church. The M. E. Church is a handsome building of red brick. I believe there are fine church societies in Normal.

I like the store I am in better as I become better acquainted. It is the leading bookstore, and the drug department, I am told, is increasing its sales. They have an excellent soda water trade. The book and newspaper business draws a great many. They are agents for a Laundry, keep photographic and bicycle supplies, and take it altogether it is quite a busy store. The room is on a corner and is divided into front and back rooms with a high ceiling. It is lighted with the electric lights. At the beginning of the terms they have a very large trade, and require many extra clerks. Mr. McKinnie tells me that one day last fall their sales were over \$500.00. One thing that I know will please you is that they handle no liquor. This was a delightful surprise to me. There is no liquor allowed to be sold within one mile in every direction of the University... I have breakfast at 6:30 and seldom get home in the evening before 10 o'clock. On Sunday they open the store until 10:30 and then after 12 o'clock for a short time when the Sunday papers arrive... There are quite a number of Negroes living here. There are two African churches, and five white ones.

My dear Frances:

... I suppose you are anxious to hear about Normal. I am glad that I can send a map, for you can get a much better idea of the town. You must imagine all that part north, east, and southeast of the University grounds to the central R. R. tracks closely built with nice houses, and nicely shaded with large shade trees. That part east of the I. C. tracks has some nice houses, but there are more poorer ones, and it does not compare well with the west side. That part southeast of the C & A tracks is on high ground and there are some extra nice houses there. In fact I believe it is considered rather tony. University Street west of the college is built up on the west side only. There are some very nice houses there. The finest house I have seen is on that street. You will notice the Public School buildings on School street. The large one is of brick, the smaller one of wood. It is used for the primary scholars.

June 3, 1898

My dear little Children:

.... The last two days they have had a flower carnival at Bloomington and they have had a big crowd. They run extra street cars from here and they were crowded. I went down for

a couple of hours Wednesday evening. There was something going on at Miller's Park, about a mile from the center of the city, but the cars were so crowded I didn't go to the park, but amused myself looking around Bloomington at night. The business portion is decorated with flags, streamers, etc. and while I was there some of these streamers or bunting caught fire from a Chinese lantern. They soon put it out, just as the fire engines came up. I enjoyed seeing the fire engines rushing through the street. They have such pretty horses, and they run just as though they were running away.

Did Papa tell you there was a Soldiers' Orphans' Home here? It is a home for little boys and girls whose papas were soldiers. You can find it on the map I sent you. It is about one mile northeast of town. The buildings are quite large and there are nearly 500 children there. They live there and have a large school building of their own. I have seen them twice, once on Decoration Day, when they went to the cemetery at Bloomington, and again yesterday when they went to the carnival. Both times they went on the street cars and filled five or six street cars full. They seemed to be from eight to twelve years old. The boys were dressed in blue and the girls in white. On Decoration Day the girls had red, white and blue sashes over one shoulder. The boys have a brass band of their own...

June 6, 1898

My dear Children:

...Yesterday afternoon I took the streetcars and rode to Miller's Park at Bloomington, where a band was giving a concert. The park is in the woods at the edge of town. There is a large pond of water in it, where they have row boats for people to ride in. I did not care to ride, so I sat and listened to the band play. There is a house there where they sell ice cream and soda. After awhile I got tired and thought I would walk around. I went up a hill where I saw the people going and there I saw two little deer and a buffalo in a field. Then in some cages I saw a bear, a tiger, a wolf, an eagle, some owls and guinea pigs, and some monkeys. The monkeys were lots of fun for the children. Sometime I will take you to see them...

June 12, 1898

... The University has what they call a practice school for children. It is a regular graded school composed of the children of Normal who prefer it to the public school. The teachers are the students of the Normal University, who teach under the supervision of some of the Normal faculty. It is free to children up to twelve years of age, after which the tuition is \$25 per year, and I understand those who have passed through this school are entitled to a free course through the Normal. This is Children's Day in several of the churches. There will be special services in three of the churches this evening... Mr. McKinnie talks of going to the war. He is a member of some company that is now at Chattanooga, and the recruiting officer was here yesterday looking for volunteers to fill the places of those who failed to pass the examinations. I do not know whether he will go or not. Mr. McKnight does not want him to go...

June 24, 1898

...I heard of a house in a very nice locality, eight rooms and kitchen with hard wood floor in dining room, which the party thought could be rented for \$16.00. It will be vacated some time this summer. Would this be too large? The houses will begin to be vacated now soon, and I will look around.

We have had a very busy week in the store, but most of the students will leave today. Presume it will be rather quiet next week...

June 26, 1898

My dear little Children:

... Well, nearly every week I have something to tell you about the orphan children, don't I? This time it is about the girls. Yesterday all of the little girls came down to play on the University grounds. This time they all wore blue dresses and black tam o'shanter hats. The little tots, not much bigger than Clara Louise marched in front, and the larger ones behind. They looked very cute. I wish I could see you all. How do you like the curfew bell? ...

July 2, 1898

... The new revenue law went into effect yesterday, and hereafter the toilet cream will have to have a stamp affixed. I will send you some in a few days... Tell Lewis to be a good boy on the 4th, and not get into danger. You had better keep him at home during the busiest time of the day...

July 4, 1898

... This is the glorious Fourth. I shall be worrying all day for fear the children will be hurt. Do you get any war news? The report is this morning that the Americans destroyed the Spanish fleet at Santiago...

July 1w, 1898

... Did you know that Ex. Gov. Fifer and Ex Vice President Stevenson both live in Bloomington? I passed their houses last Sunday...

August 2, 1898

... Since writing you this morning, I have rented a house. It is the one I wrote you about on Ash Street, nearly opposite the Presbyterian Church. Can have possession on about the 16th. It is a nice neighborhood and I think you will like it. Don't forget to ship the lawn mower. Also send the coal grate with the cook stove...

After working four years in Normal, my father took a position in Fischbeck's Drugstore at 113 S. Center St. and we moved to 1004 N. Main St., Bloomington, next door south of the old Ben Funk home, now Gailey's Eye Clinic. This Center St. store is the store that I grew up in. I remember my brother Lewis and I waging active war-fare up and down the length of the store behind opposite counters, shooting folded-up paper arrows at each other from rubber bands. I remember the taste of liquorice bark and the delightful crunchy rock candy so hard to chew.

My father's hours were long in the drug store, starting at seven o'clock and ending sometimes after nine or ten o'clock at night. There were times, though, on Thursday afternoons or on Sunday's when we would hear the deliberate clip clop of a horse's hoofs stop outside our house. Then what a rush we made

to the front door to see my father step from a large fringed surrey, and to watch him tie the Fischbeck family horse to the hitching post at the curb. What a welcome diversion those buggy rides were from the family walks we took together each Sunday afternoon.

Again the musical echo follows the memory of the drug stores in my father's life. Music has always been his greatest interest and whenever we chanced to enter an empty drugstore we could hear my father's voice intoning notes of the scale, as he paced back and forth behind the counter. When we children were growing up we had a family orchestra, my sister playing our Knabe grand piano; my brother, first violin; my mother, second violin; my father played his father's flute; and I, the cello. So small was I, at first, that I had to stand up to play as if the instrument was a bass viol. I grew up to the familiar tones of Schubert, Mendelssohn, the Spring Song, Cavalleria Rusticana and the other classics.

Another vivid memory of the drug store as a child was when the street carnivals came to Bloomington. They filled the streets around the square for a number of blocks - bright colored tents, midgets and dancers in spangly short dresses, snake charmers, performing dogs, a merry-go-round with its tantalizing music and the awesome ferris wheel. To the children it seemed that overnight the whole town was changed by magic to an enchanted realm. At Grove St. and Center, just outside my father's place of business stood the tall ladder reaching high into the sky, where twice a day a man climbed to stand on the tiny platform high above my head. I still remember crouching safely inside the window of the drug store and watching this man dive from that height to a small tank of water not many feet away from my frightened face.

About 1911 my father clerked for Enlow's Drug Store and in later years he was employed in Haffner's, Bonnet's Melvin Hayes, Mark Hayes' and the Max Moratz Drug Stores. He was considered to be a good prescription clerk and knew and made up the prescriptions of a good share of the Bloomington doctors in this past half century.

When I enter the shining drug stores of today with their lunch counters and glittering cosmetics and bewildering array of prepared medicines, I often think of my father and his father pioneering in the field of pharmacy in those faraway days of seventy and eighty years ago.

EARLY DRUG STORES

1855 - 56

Wakefield & Thompson - South Side the Square
Well & Lichtenthaler
Waters & Richardson
City Drug Store - office of Dr. E. K. Crothers

1868 - Nine Drug Stores, including -

Theodore Haering - 413 N. Main
E. K. Crothers - 116 W. Washington

1870 - Nine Drug Stores, including

Ferrigo & Coblentz - 109 W. Jefferson

1875 - 76

Marmon, W. W. - 115 N. Main (Wholesale)
Blanchard, E. H. - 813 W. Chestnut
Coblentz, John C. - 109 W. Jefferson
Crothers, E. K. - 116 W. Washington
Dunn, I & Co. - 720 W. Chestnut
Dyson, D. S. - 120 S. Main
Espey, John E. - Main, N. E. cor. Front
Green, G. C. - E. S. Beaufort, Normal
Haering, T. & Co., - 413 N. Main
Kopf, M. S. Dr. - 810 E. Grove
Lackey, Ira - 110 W. Washington
Marmon, W. W. - 115 N. Main
Marteeny & McMillan - 217 E. Front
Murry ' Eddy - 220 N. Centre

1880 - Fourteen Drug Stores, including

Marteeny, T. A. - East cor. Front
Theron & Fell - 220 N. Centre
John C. Coblentz - 109 W. Jefferson

1891 - Eighteen Drug Stores, including

W. W. Marmon - 115 N. Main
Dyson & Fischbeck - 113 S. Center
Garver Christian - 201 E. Front
Loar - 531 N. Main

1893 - Eighteen Drug Stores, including

William A. Fischbeck - 113 S. Center and 629 N. Main
P. A. Coen & Son - 108 Beaufort, Normal

1899 - Loar & Enlow - 533 N. Main

Theodore Moratz - 101 N. Main
McKinney & McKnight - Normal

1905 - Twenty-three Drug Stores //

KIRKPATRICK'S CHAIR

For years conspicuous in entrance way,
A big red chair, outside Kirkpatrick's store,
For people passing back and forth each day,
Merely symbol for furniture it bore;
While meaning something else in youthful eyes,
With fiction fired imagination bold;
They agreed, awed by such tremendous size,
A storybook giant the seat might hold.

When time had wrought changes along the street,
The chair remained in its accustomed place;
Friends of a long established house to greet,
Assuring with progress they had kept pace;
Its dimensions still were of vast extent,
To small children who stared in wonderment.

James Hart

LIVINGSTON'S

by

Fannie Livingston Ochs

LIVINGSTON'S

On March 13, 1866 the following ad appeared in The Pantagraph:

New Dry Goods Store. S. Livingston and Co. have opened their new store and are prepared to offer their unrivalled stock of new Spring goods, French, English and American dry goods. Prints, dress goods, shawls, black silks, laces, Paris embroideries, plain, hemmed and embroidered handkerchiefs, Lisle silk and Alexandre kid gloves, linens, damasks, toweling, white goods and notions in great variety.

Also beautiful line of ribbon, dress trimming and Paris ornaments embracing all the novelties of the season. Balmorals, hoop skirts and corsets--elegant in style and material. Also complete line of flannels, cloths, cloakings.

All our goods have been selected in Eastern markets by J.H. Merrick, who has the management of the business. And we announce with pleasure that we have no old goods at high prices, but all new and desirable, having bought our stock cheap we propose to offer our customers great bargains. S. Livingston and Co.

Thus Bloomingtonians read for the first time about a new dry goods store in the Phoenix Hall building on the south side of the square at 112 W. Washington Street, (the center part of the present Livingston store). The members of the firm of S. Livingston and Co. were Sam Livingston, Sr., Aaron Livingston, Sr., and Abraham Behrman. In 1867, Aaron Livingston, Jr., a cousin of Sam and Aaron Livingston and called "Jr." to distinguish him from his cousin, came to Bloomington and worked at S. Livingston and Co.'s new establishment. It was known as the Mc Lean County Dry Goods

Store to distinguish it from the men's clothing store which was also owned by the company.

Young Aaron had come to the United States from Germany in 1855 at the age of 18. He lived in Cincinnati and Chattanooga, fought in the Civil War and came to Bloomington after he was discharged from the 2d Regiment of the Kansas Volunteer Infantry. In 1868, while working for S. Livingston and Co., he married Hannah Eliel of LaPorte, Indiana. To this union were born the following children: Rose, Guida, Milton, Sam, Fannie, and Bessie. They lived at 532 W. Grove Street until 1880. From that date on the family home was at 210 E. Jefferson Street.

In 1873, when the store was just seven years old, young Aaron bought out the S. Livingston and Co. interests and its name was changed to A. Livingston and Co. His brother, Reseil, worked in the store with him and in 1882 was taken into partnership. The name of the store was then changed to A. and R. Livingston and remained that until 1892 when Reseil left the business. In 1893 and 1896, Aaron's two sons Milton and Sam respectively, entered the store in partnership and it became known as A. Livingston and Sons.

Aaron Livingston died in 1903 and the store ownership and management was left in Milton's and Sam's hands. Under the guidance of these two sons, the business expanded gradually from a small shop into a large modern store of four floors. About 1890 a second floor was added. The next ex-

pansion was to the west where the Columbia Clothing Store had been located and then to the east where Frey's Drug Store was located. Each expansion called for extensive remodeling. A fire in 1902 in the building to the east caused great smoke and water damage just before the opening of a newly enlarged and remodeled section. As the store grew, more employees and new departments were added.

The expansion of the store from time to time also included the introduction of the improvements of the period. Electric lights were installed in the 1880's, the telephone in 1896, elevators in the first part of the 20th century, gasoline engine delivery trucks replaced the horse and wagon, and pneumatic change tubes replaced the wire baskets and change boxes which ran on wires. Typewriters, adding machines and billing machines, as they were added, aided the work in the office.

In 1937, Milton, after more than 40 years of active participation in the store and the community, passed away while on a trip to South America. His interest in the store was left to his wife, Florence Griesheim Livingston, and his sons, Dr. A. Edward Livingston and William George Livingston. In the same year, brother Sam being in retirement, Mr. Hugh Henry, who had been associated with the store for eight years, took over its management and received an interest in the partnership. In 1943, brother Sam died in California and his interest in the store was left to his

wife, Stella Salzenstein Livingston.

Since World War II, the store has continued its expansion with the opening of new sales departments in the basement. The third generation of the family actively participating in the business is represented by William George Livingston. With 84 successful years behind it, the store looks forward to the celebration of its centennial in 1966 at its old stand on the south side of the square.

Contributed by

Fannie Livingston Ochs,

Daughter of Aaron Livingston

January 1st, 1950

SHORT HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY

by

ELDO M. MOORE

Short History of Photography in McLean County with

Personal Notes by Eldo Moore

By - Wilma Tolley

In the panorama of McLean County history from 1850 to 1950; among the lawyers, doctors, school teachers and farmers, stands a curious fellow with his head lost in the curtains over a big black box.

He was the pioneer picture maker.

He was already in Bloomington in 1850 - 100 years ago. And because he was, we today know that the pioneer who came to McLean County was not only courageous, sturdy and shrewd as faithfully written over and over again by the historians, but we know he had a whiskered face and raw boned body. We know his wife was a plain faced woman, with her hair drawn in a topknot bun so tight the skin across her cheekbones was stretched taut as a violin string. We know that the babies wore dresses twice as long as the infants now do, and that little boys wore embroidered dresses as well as little girls.

What kind of fellow was this early picture maker?

He was a hero in the same class as the early musician and the first newspapermen who came lugging the strange paraphernalia of their trade into the mud caked streets of Bloomington without an invitation or a ghost of a promise of any business.

It is probably safe to think that the dubious squint he caught in the eyes of many of the old settlers was not so much caution born of the rough settler's life, as ill concealed doubt of this whole new fangled "idear of having a picture taken."

Few of their names have survived. Milo Custer, in a history of the development of photography written for the McLean County Historical Society, reports that two daguerreotype studios were in Bloomington in 1850-- a full century ago.

Daguerreotype was the name given to the first form of photography. The name comes from a Frenchman names Louis Jaques Maude Daguerre, who invented first form of photography about 1835. He reported two advertisements from daguerreotype artists appeared in The Western Whig, a Bloomington newspaper, on January 22, 1851. The ads are dated December 25, 1850. However, H. S. Stipp advertised that he, "Respectfully informs the ladies and gentlemen of Bloomington and vicinity that he has fitted up rooms over Young and

Montgomery's store for the purpose of executing daguerreotype miniatures in a style equal to any ever taken.

"Having new apparatus and the best material, he can warrant his work durable and satisfactory. Those wishing a relic of their friends that will never fade, would do well to embrace this opportunity before death deprives them of another. The residences of gentlemen taken on reasonable terms.

"Invalids waited on at their respective residences; also, likenesses of deceased persons taken to order.

"Ladies and Gentlemen are solicited to visit the rooms whether they wish a likeness or not. Instructions given in the art on reasonable terms and also a first rate camera and apparatus can be furnished."

A Mr. Slason advertised that he had opened a gallery over C. Baker's store where he was "prepared to take likenesses in a superior style."

He could take children from three to five seconds on a clear day, but advised the best hours were from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Daguerreotypes were images recorded on metal, usually thin sheets of copper or silver. The next process was ambrotypes, in which the image was recorded on glass.

Mr. Custer reported that tintypes had arrived in Bloomington by 1860.

Then came the cardboard and paper photographs.

I, (Eldo M. Moore) got my first taste of photography in 1902, when as an office boy in a Decatur Studio where tin types were being made, I got the smell of the dark room and the mysteries connected with the coating of tin types.

From there I went to Springfield Illinois where I became an apprentice in a regular portrait studio, as a helper to the photographer earning \$3.00 a week, sleeping in the dressing room.

I served my apprenticeship as a portrait photographer in Springfield Illinois and operated a portrait studio in Mattoon Illinois. I was also a traveling salesman for a photographic stock house, traveling in Iowa before I came to Bloomington.

The United Photo Shop was opened by me August 23, 1910, making only three for a quarter post cards finished while the customer waited, using a Cooper Huett mercury lamp, which made each subject look gastly.

We used glass negatives, and printed our post cards by placing a light piece of celluloid over the wet negative, using formaldehyde to harden the emulsion.

In those days, 1910, we had two types of photographic paper, one called printing-out paper, and the other developing-out paper. It was necessary to print the printing-out paper in a strong daylight and then tone it in a gold or platinum bath. Sometimes, depending on the type of picture, we would use both gold and platinum bath. The developing-out paper was exposed by artificial light in a printing machine, developed in very subdued light, put through a fixing bath and washed. The better washing given to a picture, the more permanent it was.

At Mattoon Illinois, I made what I considered some very good portraits, and also did some commercial photography.

After being in Bloomington for about a year, I started making portraits and also doing commercial pictures, parties, family groups and photographing merchandise.

At this time, we were still using glass plates, but shortly afterwards, The Eastman Kodak Company manufactured a film with a celluloid base, doing away with the glass base. I immediately changed to celluloid base film for many reasons.

First, easier to handle; Second, no breakage;
Third, easier to store.

When I came to Bloomington, there were eight portrait studios all upstairs with big skylight, and none using artificial lighting.

The next big change in photography was the artificial light. My studio being on the ground floor it was necessary that I use artificial light.

From the Cooper Huett mercury lamp, we went to the carbon lamp, which was a harsh light and we used screen to soften the light.

From the carbon lamp, we went to the tungsten.

From the tungsten, we went to the florescent lamp. The florescent lamp with some five to twelve tubes mounted in a battery gave us practically the same light as a large skylight, only we could use our artificial lights day or night and we closed out all daylight.

Today the portrait photographer not only uses the nice soft florescent lights, but used very soft spot lights and fill in lights. Today no one works under skylights.

Going back, The Eastman Kodak Company Rochester New York, has been a great help to the professional photographer, in that they had demonstrators on both film and paper who would come to your studio and spend all the time required to teach you how to handle the new products, and at no cost whatever to the photographer. These demonstrators were skillfully trained experienced photographers.

Commercial photography has not always been the safe mild profession it is now. In the old days, we used flash powder. Today the amateur and professional both use flash bulbs that are perfectly safe from explosion or injury to anyone.

We used the flash powder in a long metal trough with a trigger in the center over which we placed an ordinary cap pistol cap. By setting off this trigger, we would explode our flash powder.

Several times I have received serious burns on hands and wrist, and today I carry a scar from a third degree burn.

The smoke caused by this flash powder would very soon fill a room after being exploded, and at

one time I was prohibited from making flashlight pictures in the Bloomington Club, as the sediment and smoke spoiled a delicate ceiling.

Photography is a very interesting profession. There is none of the humdrum every day occurrence. Each subject is different, each job is different, and the photographer who succeeds will always endeavor to do each job whether it is portrait or commercial, developing and printing better than the last.

Legal photography has played a most important part in law suits, murder cases, robbery, etc. During my entire business career in Bloomington, up until 1945, we did most of this type of work that was done in this area working with the attorney or direct with the Railroad Company or Insurance Company.

A photographer comes in contact with many unusual situations. I have photographed wrecks where there would be dead bodies.

I have photographed dead bodies laid out on the cooling table at the undertakers.

I have photographed corpse in the casket, where they would be carried out in the yard and the entire family grouped around the casket. That of course was for the foreign people who wished to send a picture back to their native country.

My favorite subjects were Men.

I did not try to produce a map nor a beautiful picture of a man, but to photograph his character. To tell in that portrait just what kind of a man he was.

My next favorite subject was children between the ages of three and eight. They are the easiest to handle if you don't get too forward with them. Give them a little time in your operating room to get acquainted with you, and if they are in a good humor, you can get most any kind of an expression from a child.

Small babies from three months to eighteen months are very difficult to handle unless they are in a very good humor and the Mother lets them alone and lets the photographer do the entertaining.

An amusing incident when I first came to Bloomington was, a lady came into my shop one day with a roll of film and unrolled it on the counter

and said, "I took every one of these pictures just the way the instructions said, and there isn't a picture on this film." (Of course you know you can not unroll a film in daylight.)

Another instance, a lady was taking a picture of her little boy and after she started to take it, he started to run away from her. She brought the negative in and asked if I could turn it around so that some of his face would show.

In the early days of motion pictures, I made quite a few motion pictures of operations for doctors. One of my very first operations to photograph was for Dr. E. P. Sloan at St. Joseph Hospital, and it was necessary for me to be on a high stool to photograph this operation. In looking over the nurses, I figured there was one extra nurse and after the operation was over I asked why so many nurses, and Dr. Sloan said the extra nurse was for me in case I passed out.

I have retired from the portrait and commercial end of photography.

Today, I am exclusively in the photograph supply business, and developing, printing and enlarging for amateurs.

I operate a personally conducted finishing department where each and every order has the special attention of an experienced photographer.

My business is small compared to some other portrait, commercial and amateur finishing plants who have regular assembly lines, and turn out work very rapidly. They have automatic machines both printers, washers and driers. We too have the automatic machines, but we run them individually and not on an assembly line.

Eldo M. Moore:MM

By

E. M. Moore

On November 2, 1912 my brother Frank and I formed a partnership and bought out a grocery store at 401 N. Market Street.

REMINISCING AMONG THE CRACKER BARRELS

REMINISCING AMONG THE CRACKER BARRELS

I was born on a farm west of Danvers in 1892 being one of a family of eight children, and have lived in McLean County all my life and attended Bloomington Schools. Being a member of a large family I learned to work early in life, doing chores around the home and working in the garden.

On November 1, 1913 my brother Frank and I formed a partnership and bought out a grocery store at 901 W. Market Street, which we operated for six years. We later bought a larger store at 1402-04 West Market Street. Our partnership which was a most agreeable one, lasted until just a few years ago when Frank's son Carl returned from the war and wanted to enter the business with his father. I then sold my interest to him. I bought my present store at 429 North Main Street on September 1, 1930 and still cooperate with the West Market Street store in purchases and in spirit.

On June 30, 1915 Esther O. Booz and I were married and through the years she has often made helpful suggestions to brighten any rough spots as they appeared from time to time.

There have been many changes in service and equipment since I first entered the food business. The deliveries were then all made by horse drawn open wagons. The first covered wagon that I was privileged to use seemed to be a blessing from the angels, just to think---you didn't have to sit in the rain or snow when making your deliveries. In 1906 I

took my first job working after school and on Saturdays. At that time there were no pavements west of the Chicago and Alton tracks and in the spring of the year when the roads broke up it would take a team of horses to pull a delivery wagon. The farmer had no improved roads so it meant a day's trip whenever he needed supplies. Rural people usually prepared themselves ahead of time and bought large purchases in the fall. It was quite common to include in their order: eighteen to twenty sacks of flour, ten to fifteen pounds of coffee, which, by the way, usually had to be ground in the hand mill, large supplies of navy or lima beans, dried fruits, sugar, cheese, soap, lye and salt which was generally sold by the barrel. In the fall many farmers bought a wagon load of merchandise.

Not many people in the west part of Bloomington had telephones. This meant the grocer had order routes and about once or twice a week would call on his customers for their needs, make the deliveries later in the day, or, in some cases, the next day. Few people had ice boxes, so in the summertime the merchant who handled fresh meat had to make deliveries late Saturday night or early Sunday morning in order to supply his customers with their Sunday meat needs.

The merchant's equipment was quite different from today's modern fixtures. Wooden counters, hand coffee mills, platform scales, an ice box with ice capacity of twelve to

fifteen hundred pounds of ice in which to keep meat, butter, and milk took the place of our modern mechanical equipment. Then we had kerosene and gasoline tanks as kerosene was used by most families for lighting. The fixtures of today include mechanically cooled meat boxes, meat counters, vegetable cases, dairy cases, freezer cases for frozen foods and ice cream, electric meat grinders, coffee grinders, meat slicers and also the latest electric and computing scales.

About 1912, delivery trucks made their appearance on the streets of Bloomington and as they seemed to do the job better than the horse drawn wagon, they increased in number in the next five to ten years. If you will think back with me there were few pleasure cars and those not of the sedan type, but open cars. Linen dusters were regular equipment of many families who had trips of ten to twenty miles to make.

Now we might go back to the buying habits and the supplies offered by the grocers in the earlier days. There were two or three brands of packaged coffees, sugar was shipped in the barrel or one hundred pound bag lots, potatoes were shipped in the bulk or in one hundred-fifty pound bags, spices were packed in bulk, salt came in barrels, crackers and cookies in boxes or barrels, dried fruits only in bulk, pickles and sauer kraut in bulk, oranges were sold in the fall around holiday time, when also, different kinds of nuts

but no nut meats, were offered. Fresh fruits and vegetables were sold mostly when offered by local orchards and gardeners. Head lettuce was seldom available in the average grocery.

Canned milk in those days was used by very few customers. Milk was sold in the bulk, people would bring in their containers and we would shake up the three or five gallon can and measure out their wants. The butter sold was mostly country churned or tub creamery. Bread, rolls, cakes and all bakery products came unwrapped. Many families stored apples, potatoes, pears, carrots and turnips in their basements for fall and winter use. Hay, straw, ear and shelled corn, oats, bran and middlings were handled by many of the outside grocers and many families had one or two cows and in the fall of the year would fatten a few pigs for part of their winter's meat supply.

Then as we moved along from year to year most of these things changed. The modern housewife doesn't need gasoline or kerosene for cooking or lighting, so the gas stations have taken whatever demand remains. This is the way it should be, as they were hard to handle with food stuffs. Later national manufacturers brought out packages of many varieties of breakfast foods, their brands of spices and coffee, cheese in packages and all varieties of fruit and vegetable juices. The cake mixes of all kinds which make the art of cake making more suc-

cessful have practically replaced the sale of the regular cake flours. Thin oiled and waxed paper, cellophane paper and bags have tremendously improved the appearance and preserved the freshness of packaged goods. Dried fruits, nut meats, marshmallows packed in cellophane bags are especially attractive to the consumer. In the last few years frozen fruits and vegetables have become standard stock in most stores, followed by frozen rolls and pies. Fresh frozen juices from tree ripened fruits are probably the latest items added. They are very delicious and are fast gaining in sales. The modern bakers of today have made great strides in providing superior products to the retailers. All bread, cakes, rolls and sweet rolls are attractively wrapped and packaged for sale. Their latest offerings are the partially baked tea biscuits and sweet rolls which require only seven to ten minutes of baking.

The fruit and vegetable produce houses have been a big factor in bringing the orchards and vegetable gardens from all parts of the country closer to us by the use of refrigerator cars and trucks. This has kept the prices down and more within the reach of the average American family.

All these things have greatly changed the living standards of our people. Further developement of gas and electricity, the automobile, the radio and, we might add, the plane, have helped revolutionize the food business.

During the last forty to fifty years chain, cash and

carry food stores have made their appearance in most smaller cities and rural communities. In spite of the fact that big money interests have invested thousands of dollars in the latest equipment and fine stores the independent dealers have held their own and still supply more housewives with their food needs. On their first appearance very few chains took their part in civic affairs of local communities but as time went on public opinion forced them to partially accept this responsibility.

We have always operated a service store and have no thought of changing as we feel most families like to be served and know it can be done by the merchant collectively, more economically than individually. Although we selected a hard and exacting business for our livelihood we are very grateful to the buying public for the fine support received through the years. We have clung to the old edict that the customer is always right. Our clerks have been supervised along these lines.

It has been a real pleasure to be a part of the business life of this community and, we are ^{thank}ful to God for the opportunities offered in this wonderful Nation of ours.

CANDY MANUFACTURING IN THE EARLY 1900'S

by

John J. Phillis

CANDY MANUFACTURING IN THE EARLY 1900'S

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John J. Phillis, one of Bloomington's most widely-known Candy makers has delighted youngsters and grown-ups alike with taste-tempting confections for more than a half a century. Back in 1890, in the days when box chocolates were a novelty, Mr. Phillis started his candy-making vocation with Chisholm Gray Company of Bloomington. His first pay check was for \$2.00 which was considered ample compensation for 60 hours a week in the candy factory. A year later, in 1891, Paul F. Beich bought out the Gray company, and Mr. Phillis continued with Beich until 1896 when he opened his own candy shop at 610 N. Center Street.

Hard candy was the forerunner of many different types of candy now on the market. In the ten years before the turn of the century, hard candy production made up almost 90% of the total candy manufactured. Although hard candy was an immediate success with the public, the industry almost died before it was born. To get the many attractive colors of hard candy, it was necessary for the manufacturers to use such ingredients as Paris Green, ultramarine blue and cochineal as a base. These ingredients which are deadly poisons were often used to such an extent that children became sick as a result of eating too much of the candy. Some other substitutes were necessary if the candy industry was to survive. Pure vegetable dyes were substituted and are still used. Today all ingredients are carefully analyzed by the Pure

Food and Drug Administration in Washington.

The first chocolates appeared in Bloomington around 1891. They were made by the old Chisholm Gray Company in the factory which is now occupied by the Paul F. Beich Company. The early chocolates differed in size and shape from the present day ones. The first chocolates were cone-shaped and covered with a bitter chocolate coating that was thinned down to a water consistency with lard. Cone-shaped candy centers were first molded by hand, then placed into a sieve which was lowered into the chocolate coating. As chocolates became more popular, a better grade coating was used and they were hand dipped and marked so that different flavored centers could be readily identified.

Prices existing at that time were: peanuts - 3¢ per pound; taffy - 10¢ per pound, 3 pounds for 25¢; the best chocolates were 40¢ per pound with less expensive kinds selling from 20¢ to 25¢ per pound.

Novelty candy such as "strawberries" and "cocoanut bonbons" were soon the rage. The strawberry candy was made with imitation strawberry flavoring and clover seeds to simulate actual strawberry seeds. The cocoanut bonbons consisted of nothing more than rolled white corn with a little cocoanut sprinkled on the top. Novelty candies such as these were later subjected to the Pure Food and Drug laws, and other ingredients and other methods of making them had to be found. Present candy is made of large quantities of corn glucose which is an excellent base but has no sweetness.

Early day candy varied in quality since candy thermometers

and other instruments were nonexistent. Consistency of caramel and other candy "batches" was measured by the manufacturer by quickly dipping his wet hand into the mixture and plunging a small amount of the candy into a large glass or beaker. Today, candy making has progressed to an exact science. Every step of the manufacture is carefully checked and double-checked. Temperatures are religiously maintained. Ingredients are analyzed by chemists to maintain uniform quality of product at all times.

In the early 1900's, the best candy seller in retail stores was taffy. Made in strawberry, chocolate and vanilla flavors. Sacks and boxes were practically unknown and the store proprietor would take a plain piece of paper and fashioned it into a cornucopia in which to put the candy. In those days, ice cream was made with cream, sugar and flavoring. It was so rich that you could taste the butter on the roof of your mouth after eating a dishful. However, it was highly perishable and would not keep for any length of time without melting and spoiling.

Oldtime ice cream parlors served phosphate and ice cream sodas. Soap bark was used to make the foam. Soda straws were unheard of and drinks were served in tall glasses set in silver holders. The typical ice cream parlor furniture consisted of awkward three legged tables with marble tops. The chairs were of heavy wire legs and back with a thin wooden seat.

From the relatively few types of candy on the market 50 years ago, today it is possible to find at least 14 different types, most of them manufactured right here in Bloomington. They are: 1. coated candies, 2. hard candies, 3. cream candies, 4. caramels

and toffees, 5. fudges, 6. nougats, 7. gums and jellies, 8. chocolate, sweet and milk candies, 9. cocoanut candies, 10. sugar lozenges, 11. marshmallows, 12. licorice candies, 13. candy bars, and 14. panned candies

LOCUST STREET BRIDGE

Looking beyond its guarding parapet

As vantage point, affords unhindered view
Toward evening, with splendor of sunset

Splashed over heaven's firmament of blue;
The western sky with mixed colors aglow,
Such as never painted by artist's brush;
Like a flaming cloud canvas hanging low,
Until it slowly fades in twilight hush.

From Saint Patrick's lofty steeple close by,

The clear, deep tones of an Angelus bell,
Come floating out, and upward to the sky,

Breaking the quiet with their solemn swell.
Stillness again, as dusk is merged in night,
A switchman signals with his lantern-light.

James Hart

W. B. READ & COMPANY

by

W. B. Read

In the book in the days when the photograph was in its infancy, the author included the early and specially designed, when the author, history and the whole department of the book and the history of the photograph in its infancy and the history of the photograph in its infancy.

I will attempt to give the history of the photograph in its infancy, and the history of the photograph in its infancy, and the history of the photograph in its infancy, and the history of the photograph in its infancy.

The history of the photograph in its infancy, and the history of the photograph in its infancy, and the history of the photograph in its infancy, and the history of the photograph in its infancy.

W. B. READ & COMPANY

W. B. Read

Written by

Howard J. Read

W. B. Read

It was back in the days when the Pantagraph- W. O. Davis, proprietor- included the Daily and Weekly Pantagraph, also the Printing, Bindery and Wholesale departments. Mr. Davis had fully determined to eventually separate the newspapers from the other departments.

I had started in the office as collector and general assistant, working up to the position of bookkeeper and, with an assistant, rearranged the system so as to keep accounts of the newspapers and other departments separately.

Later an organization known as The Pantagraph Stationery Company was formed with Mr. Davis as President and with several of the employees, including Mr. Alonzo Dolan, holding interests. Later the present organization- The Pantagraph Printing and

Stationery Company, was formed taking over this Company, except the wholesale department; this being taken over by Mr. Davis and myself under the name of W. O. Davis & Company. In course of time I purchased the business and there is where

W. B. READ & COMPANY started

Later Mr. C. M. White, who had been with me for some time, bought an interest, and the name changed to READ & WHITE.

In January 1895, we bought the Charles E. Dalton business, and in February the same year we moved into the building they occupied, and where we are still located. In 1912 I bought the interest of Mr. White and the name again went back to what it still is-

W. B. READ & COMPANY

Since the early days there have been many changes in the goods sold. School tablets were unknown, but slates were bought in carload lots; correspondence stationery did not come in boxes of 25 sheets and envelopes, but in reams of 480 sheets, and was counted out in quantities as wanted.

Dolls all came from Germany- the old fashioned china head dolls, kid body dolls, large jointed dolls with real hair were then found on all toy counters, but unknown to the little girls of today.

Stores did not close at 5:30 then, especially at Christmas time, many toy stores were open as late as 11:30 evenings and until noon Christmas day.

Toys of those days were largely tin, many of them with winding springs, so made as to run across the room. Doll

buggies were very scarce and not attractive. Among the popular toys you would find a large assortment of Magic Lanterns in prices from \$1.00 to \$12.50; these arranged with reflectors, lighted by small candles throwing pictures painted on glass strips, and were very popular, and were imported from Germany.

August 1, 1950.

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